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www.kentnews.co.uk January 15, 2012 EAST KENT EDITION Issue no 486

The shaming child poverty levels that are ruining young lives

By Marijke Cox
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CHILD poverty in Kent is at shocking levels with almost half of children in the poorest wards living in deprivation.

A study by the Campaign to End Child Poverty found the overall level of child poverty – measured as £12 or less per family member per day – was above 20 per cent in the county's poorest districts – one in five youngsters.

The worst areas were Thanet, where a quarter of children were living in poverty in 2011, and Swale, with 22 per cent.

But broken down into wards, the findings were even more worrying. In the Newington ward in Ramsgate, some 45 per cent were in child poverty and Margate central was 44 per cent. In Sheerness West, levels were 43 per cent.

In the report, the poverty line was outlined as when, after housing costs, all the household bills and family's spending needs were met by around £12 or less per family member per day.

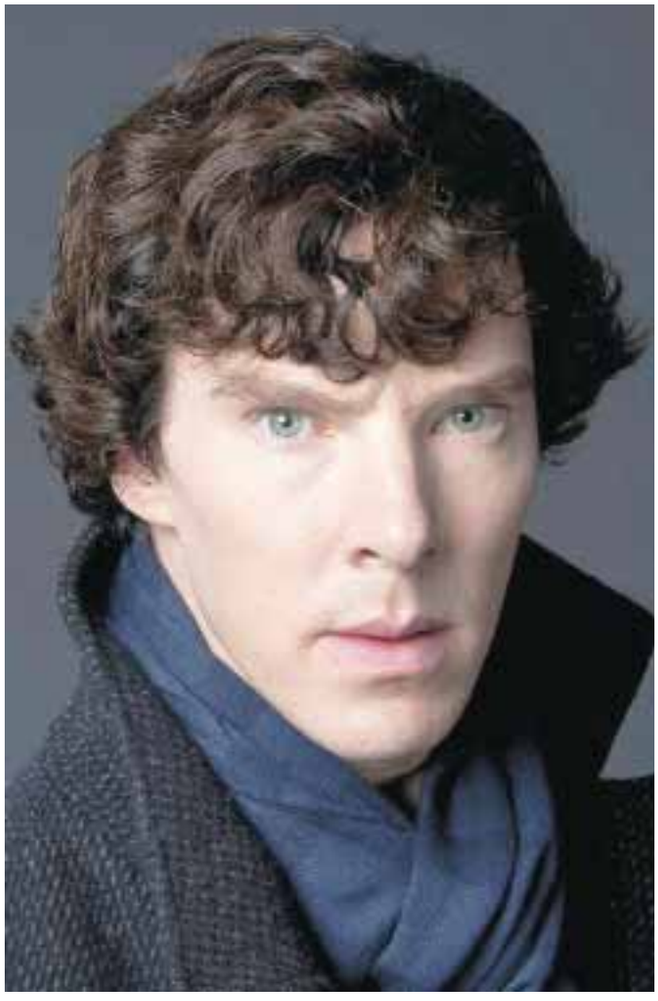
"For many families, especially those reliant on out of work benefits, it can be substantially less," the report stated.

"Parents will often try and shield their children from some of the impacts of financial hardship and the stigma of poverty. Sometimes parents will make sacrifices, such as skipping meals, so they can send their child off to school with a warm coat, or out to play in the same popular brand of trainers that their friends have.

"They do not want their children to feel excluded or become bullied. But behind the doors of the home, the hardship is often far more visible and many are deeply trapped in debt."

Thanet was highlighted as having the third highest child poverty rate in

Continued on page 2



UNCOVER THE TRUTH

SHERLOCK: We reveal the inspiration behind the hit BBC television show – **SEE INSIDE**

EDUCATION

Expulsions top national levels

KCC schools officials have promised to act to tackle the high rates of pupil expulsions in the county.

Exclusion rate are higher than the national average, and more than half of children thrown out of secondary schools last year had special education needs. **PAGE 2**

HISTORY

Explorer's lost papers drop in

THE forgotten story of of Britain's greatest explorers is being retold after a lucky find by a plumber.

A tradesman was working at a Dover house where Dr Reginald Koettlitz used to live, when a ceiling collapse revealed the hidden papers of the explorer. **PAGE 11**

SPORT

Countdown to 2012 begins

WITH fewer than 200 days until the London Olympics gets under way Kent is gearing up to make the most of a year of sport.

While the top athletes are making their last-minute preparations, venues across the county are poised to play a role by hosting pre-Games training camps. **PAGE 66**

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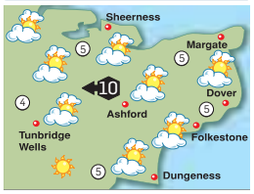

TODAY: It will be a fine day with sunny spells. Cold. Light easterly winds. Max temp 3-6C (37-43F). **TONIGHT:** Clear skies. Frosty. Min temp -2 to 1C (28-34F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	02.39	6.5	15.00	6.2
Margate	03.32	4.7	16.05	4.4
St Mary's	08.33	5.3	21.00	5.0

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 6C	Min -2C
Tuesday	Max 7C	Min 2C
Wednesday	Max 9C	Min 5C
Thursday	Max 10C	Min 4C
Friday	Max 7C	Min 1C
Saturday	Max 7C	Min 0C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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POVERTY

'A raft of opportunities to address child poverty'

Continued from front page

the South East, with six wards having levels of 30 per cent and above.

Thanet Citizens Advice Bureau manager, Ian Driver, who is a Labour councillor on the district council, said: "Thanet is one of the most deprived areas of England with Dickensian levels of hardship and poverty.

"However, we are not going to sit back and let the lives of our young people be blighted by poverty.

"We have applied to Children in Need for £80,000 to help us work with young people in the most deprived parts of the island. If successful, we will use this to work with children's centres, secondary schools and Thanet College to deliver money management training to young people so that they can avoid debt.

"We will also work with young parents to ensure their income is maximised and debts managed and reduced."

Cllr Driver said while he realised times were tough for many people, he stressed that Thanet had unique problems.

"I think the Government should step in and make a significant investment to promote more jobs and training," he said. "Extending the Pfizer Enterprise Zone to cover Thanet would be a big shot in the arm for the local economy.

"This would be a major step towards reducing poverty."

Swale also saw shocking levels, with four wards having rates of 30 per cent or above.

A spokesman at the borough council said there was a catalogue of work being carried out to tackle the problem.

He also stated that the Vestas wind turbine manufacturing proposals could see the creation of 2,000 jobs.

"Jobs, learning and skills are the main focuses for the council, showing that Swale is open for business," he said.

"The applications for large supermarkets and associated retail in Sittingbourne will also assist. There are a raft of measures and opportunities that will address this child poverty and the council will do all it can to tackle this issue."

Alison Garnham, executive director of the Campaign to End Child Poverty, said the findings of the charity's report painted a stark picture of a "socially segregated Britain" where the life chances of millions of children were being damaged by poverty.

She called on the Prime Minister to keep his pledge to make British poverty history, adding: "Child poverty costs us billions picking up the pieces of damaged lives and unrealised potential, so it's a false economy if we don't prioritise looking after children today.

"The Government urgently needs a serious plan to stop the rise in unemployment and to create jobs so young people and parents can get out of the dole queue and into the workplace."

THE FIGURES

Council	% in 2011
Ashford	15
Canterbury	16
Dartford	16
Dover	19
Gravesham	19
Maidstone	13
Medway	19
Sevenoaks	11
Shepway	19
Swale	22
Thanet	25
Tonbridge and Malling	11
Tunbridge Wells	11

EDUCATION

Action to reduce pupil exclusions

By Marijke Cox
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CONCERNS raised over the excessive use of pupil expulsion by Kent's schools have prompted moves to keep difficult children in the classroom.

A report discussed at County Hall on Friday admitted that while the number of permanent exclusions had dropped in the last four years, the use of expulsion remained consistently high – particularly in secondary academies.

"The overall trend of permanent exclusions in Kent was down 41.1 per cent over the four-year period 2006/7-2009/10, bringing it in line with the national downward trend," the report stated.

"This positive trend, however, masks some issues for schools, where use of exclusion has remained consistently higher than both the national average and the majority of the local authority's statistical neighbour authorities."

Figures showed some 250 pupils were expelled in 2010/11.

Of almost 200 secondary school expulsions, more than half were children with special educational needs (SEN) – three of whom had statements, which means they require the most support of all such pupils

In primary schools, 29 SEN pupils were excluded permanently, five had statements.

Government policy says that schools should avoid expelling statemented pupils "other than in the most exceptional circumstances".

Last year, Archant KOS Media, with the help of independent education advisor Peter Read, exposed the extent of the SEN expulsions in Kent.

Elected members at Friday's meeting discussed the work being commisioned by KCC to look at rolling out Zero Exclusion Zones – a scheme set up in Ashford four years ago to drive down expulsions by introducing in-house alternatives.

The Ashford scheme prompted a noticeable drop in the number of pupils permanently removed from the classroom.

A review of Kent's Pupil Referral Units (PRU) is also in place, looking at provision of high quality facilities for children unable to attend mainstream school.

KCC said the work would sit as part of the Bold Steps for Kent document, which looks to ensure all pupils meet their full potential.

It claims: "There will be fewer than 50 pupils permanently excluded from school (by 2015), including a proportional impact on those with SEN, and there will be no permanent exclusion of Looked After Children. The proposal is to create a dedicated inclusion team to ensure a strong focus on the range of inclusion issues."

Education expert Mr Read said something needed to happen as SEN exclusions were still a problem.

"Children with SEN in Kent are at risk of permanent exclusion and yet the Government clearly states they should only be excluded in the most exceptional circumstances," he said.

"I don't think schools are being challenged enough by KCC about permanent exclusions.

"If you look at Medway Council the figures are very low. They introduced managed moves where a pupil is moved to another school by mutual agreement."

In 2010/11 there were just two expulsions by Medway schools. A Medway council spokeswoman said the decision to exclude a pupil was "never taken lightly".

"There are a range of effective responses and strategies in place to support pupils, such as peer mentoring and buddy schemes, and as such exclusions are relatively rare," she said. "We also offer targeted individual support to those who are moving schools to make it more likely to be successful and enable them to settle in.

"More recently, we have increased the therapeutic support available to secondary pupils with a team of professionals at a pupil referral unit.

"Where there is a breakdown in relationship between the school and the child our schools are mutually supportive in managed moves, enabling the child to have a fresh start."

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FILM

Reagan look-a-like swept star off her feet with cameo in Iron Lady movie

By Chris Murphy
chris.murphy@archant.co.uk

HE was already wealthy after selling his property development companies, but Kent's own President Ronald Reagan said he was also paid well to dance with Meryl Streep in the new Iron Lady movie.

Reginald Green, 63, from Tunbridge Wells, said: "I have never acted before in my life, but through a bizarre set of circumstances I ended up dancing and chatting with Meryl Streep in this brilliant movie. I won't say how much I was paid, but I was happy with it."

Mr Green spent his career building up a successful business developing commercial properties, and also his skills as a ballroom dancer.

He still dabbles in property, but admits he now just does it for fun.

He said: "On the day of filming, I was introduced to Meryl Streep and we were told to just chat and get to know each other. We had to dance around a circle.

"We had been doing that for a while, laughing and chatting about almost anything, and then we got a tap on the shoulder and told that was fine – they had what they wanted.

"We didn't even know the cameras were rolling, so what you see on the screen is us being perfectly natural with each other.

"Nothing was scripted and we were not told what to do or say. It was utterly natural and great fun and took about half an hour.

"I had done some rehearsing earlier in the day, but that was about it.

"I do have a taste for this now, and have signed up to be a look-a-like for Reagan. An agent in America has also shown some interest in me going over there, so I am looking forward to that happening.

"Margaret Thatcher is someone well known over there. You either loved her or hated her, but she was never someone you could miss.

"This has all happened so fast – I have been in a great film, albeit briefly. I am enjoying it all now, and am well aware it could all end just as fast – I am under no illusion about that."

DOUBLE TAKE: Streep and Reginald (right) recreated Reagan and Margaret Thatcher's dance of 1981

In the film he can be seen dancing with Mrs Thatcher, in a scene set in 1981, but only for a few seconds. Streep is being tipped for an Oscar for her role.

Reginald said: "I have a friend in Australia and for some reason, the scene lasts a bit longer in their cut.

"I thought it was all a big wind-up when a freelance talent scout told me Pinewood was looking for a dancing Reagan to be in this film and my name was being considered.

"But then the studio rang me directly, and I knew it was all real."

He never got to go to the European premiere, and said: "I went to see it at Bluewater and was very impressed.

"It seemed like a different cut again from the preview I saw last year with the cast and crew."

He is also considering getting in touch with the Internet Movie Database website.

Reginald said: "They used to have me on the cast list, but for some reason took me off. I may get in touch and ask why they have Reagan down as himself as archive footage."

He loved dancing and said his original training was done by Sevenoaks' Anton du Beke before he became famous, but apart from some make-up his hair needed to be dyed, which was his only real preparation.

He said: "When we got on to the set, she just told me 'You lead and I will follow'.

"I said I couldn't imagine the real Mrs Thatcher ever saying that to Reagan and she laughed. We hit it off."

■ **See www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk for all the very latest news and sport headlines.**

COURT

Jail for man with county's largest ever haul of child sex abuse films

A FOLKESTONE man has been jailed for 30 months in what was Kent Police's largest ever seizure of indecent films.

Andrew Pratt, of Park Close in Hawkinge, admitted 17 counts of possession with a view to distributing indecent images of children.

The 47-year-old, who was a serving officer for the UK Border Agency, was arrested after 6,606 indecent films were recovered from a computer, laptop, hard drives and a memory stick found at his home by police on April 15, 2011.

Canterbury Crown Court heard how information from the Child Exploitation Online Protection service (CEOP) led Kent Police to uncover a vast library of indecent material kept by Pratt, with more than 14 days of footage, over half of which was classed at the highest levels of seriousness.

'ADDICTED': Andrew Pratt

Chat logs were also recovered containing conversations between Pratt and others discussing or arranging the sharing of child abuse material.

Pratt claimed collecting the images and footage of children was an addiction and he didn't look at many of them.

Det Sgt David Shipley said: "Pratt had an astonishing quantity of material, which he appeared to be proud to share with likeminded individuals.

"By making this material available to others, he encourages the abuse of children. People engaged in this behaviour have no concept or care for the suffering that is caused."

On release, Pratt will have a supervision requirement, be subject to a lifetime sexual offences prevention order, and will have to sign on the sex offenders' register indefinitely.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police officer attacked

TWO men have appeared before magistrates charged with assaulting an off-duty police officer on Sunday, January 8. Gary Love, 28, and Phillip Love, 25, both of Vauxhall Road, Canterbury, are charged with assault causing actual bodily harm and affray. The officer was treated at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford before being allowed to go home. Officers were called to assist their colleague at 3.20pm following the alleged incident in the High Street, Canterbury.

Chicken farm blaze

THOUSANDS of chickens died during a fire at a farm in Cranbook Road, Frittenden, near Staplehurst, on Wednesday. More than 50 firefighters were needed to tackle the blaze, and a huge plume of smoke could be seen from miles away. The blaze started at around 11.20am and no-one was hurt in the incident. Residents living nearby were advised to keep windows and doors closed because of the large amount of smoke.

Dave's freeman honour

COMEDIAN Dave Lee is to be given the Freedom of the City of Canterbury in recognition of "the great and lasting enjoyment that he has given to the people of Canterbury; in particular in his comedy performances, his tireless fundraising work." Mr Lee has starred in 16 pantos at the Marlowe and his charity, Dave Lee Happy Holidays, has enabled thousands of sick and under-privileged children to enjoy holidays.

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BRAVERY

STANDING TALL: George Turner's (far left) tale is reminiscent of Steven Spielberg's new film version of the popular children's book War Horse

Hero braved German bombardment to save real-life War Horses in WWI

By Ed Hill
ed.hill@arahant.co.uk

STEVEN Spielberg's multi-million dollar adaptation of the children's tale War Horse is released in cinemas this week.

But one Kent woman has her own family tale to tell about the animals sent to the battlefields of World War One, and the brave men who fought with them.

Ruth Turner, from Ashford, still has the Blue Cross handbook given to her grandfather George Turner instructing him how to look after his horse while at the front.

In fact the serviceman, who was engaged as a driver delivering ammunition and supplies to the soldiers, was awarded the Military Medal for bravery because of his concern for a horse's welfare.

Ms Turner said: "My grandfather was crossing France on his horse Dolly with his division, taking ammunition and supplies to the Allies at the frontline. The Germans had an observation balloon overhead and the Sun, which was low in the sky, glinted off the horse's brasses, alerting the enemy to their presence.

"The Germans sent the signal to their troops on the ground, who opened fire, shelling my grandfather and his comrades.

"My grandfather was blown off his horse and after pulling himself up, realised one of his other horses was badly injured by shrapnel. He took the ammunition from the injured animal, loaded some onto his horse and the rest on his own back and led both animals, under heavy fire, into a wooded copse in the middle of the field."

Like the character Albert in Michael Morpurgo's much-loved novel, George was just 16 when he joined the Army in 1914. As a carpenter's apprentice he had little experience with horses, but was given the task of delivering supplies with the 56th (London) Division Royal Artillery.

He battled on with one horse to reach his comrades, but he was still concerned about the other horse he had left behind, which was badly injured. Not wanting the animal to suffer a painful death, George braved the carnage of the enemy shells again so he could put it out of its misery with a gun.

Ms Turner said: "He was determined to return, while continuing on to the lines to deliver the ammunition.

"This act of courage shows how deep the bond was between my grandfather and his horses. Very few survived the shelling that day, but despite great danger to himself he refused to leave that horse to die a lonely death."

The young soldier's bravery was witnessed by a French officer through his binoculars who recommended George be awarded a medal for his bravery.

An interview with Ruth forms part of a new audio-visual archive on the Blue Cross website, launched to coincide with the War Horse film.

It is estimated more than six million horses and mules played their part in World War One, some 1.2 million under the British Army.

When war first broke out in 1914, the Blue Cross – then known as Our Dumb Friends League – tried to improve the welfare of the horses which were taken from the safety of the British countryside and hurriedly mobilised alongside men for the war effort.

The charity set up veterinary hospitals close to the front to help treat the injured animals.

Steve Goody, director of external affairs at the Blue Cross, said: "The silent suffering of the war horses struck a chord with the British public and their generosity enabled us to make a real difference on the frontlines."

To find out more about the charity's history, or make a donation visit www.bluecross.org.uk/warhorse.

■ **Read all the very latest news and sport headlines at www.yourashford.co.uk.**

NEWS IN BRIEF

£1 million Lotto winner

A LOTTERY player from Tonbridge and Malling is now a millionaire after finally coming foward to claim their prize from the Christmas EuroMillions Millionaire Raffle draw on December 23.

The prize had remained unclaimed until a few days ago, and last week Lottery chiefs made an appeal for players to check outstanding tickets.

The winner was one of 25 millionaires created in the special draw as part of the National Lottery's Millionaires Month.

PM glad of Mb boost

PRIME Minister David Cameron has welcomed news from Virgin that it will increase broadband speeds, and that Dover, Ashford and Maidstone are some of the first areas that will see 10Mb increased to 20Mb; 20Mb and 30Mb increased to 60Mb; 50Mb increased to 100Mb; and 100Mb increased to 120Mb. Mr Cameron said: "It will provide a great boost for the economy and change the way households, consumers and businesses use the internet."

80-year-old run over

AN 80-year-old woman was run over down while she was using a pedestrian crossing in Whitstable. The accident involving a blue Ford Escort happened in Oxford Street close to the town's library just after 5pm on Wednesday. The woman suffered serious head injuries and was taken to the Queen Elizabeth Queen Mother Hospital in Margate were she was said to be in a critical condition.

COURTS

16 police cars left damaged after man spread tacks outside stations

A 59-YEAR-old man who sprinked metal tacks outside a number of police stations, causing hundreds of pounds of damage to the tyres of police cars, has narrowly escaped being sent to jail.

Kevin Bance, of Brookfield, Kemsing, near Sevenoaks, scattered hundreds of the tacks he used in his job as an upholster outside the exits to police stations in Tonbridge, Coldharbour and Swanley.

In total, 16 police vehicles had their tyres punctured as a result of his actions, while one elderly woman was injured when she accidentally stood on one while walking past Tonbridge police station last April. A further 23 cars were also damaged.

However, police captured him on camera after studying CCTV footage.

And on Monday he pleaded guilty to three counts of causing danger to a road user and a further count of harassment. He was fined £2,000 and given a supervision order after appearing before Maidstone Crown Court.

In addition, Bance admitted sending an envelope containing an unknown white powder to a police officer in revenge after receiving a previous fine for disorderly behaviour in 2010.

Investigating officer Det Con Nicola Brown of Kent Police, said: "What was a malicious and thoughtless act in laying these tacks, caused damage to numerous police vehicles, which had to be taken off the road while their tyres were repaired.

"I hope this fine will help Mr Bance reflect on the serious consequences of his actions, and that attacks on Kent Police staff in any form will not be tolerated."

Bance was given a three-year supervision order and told to pay £1,922 in compensation for the damage caused to the police cars.

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AWARDS

Public show their support for 'Kent's food and drink heroes'

PRODUCED in Kent has announced the shortlisted finalists in the Taste of Kent Awards 2012.

The three finalists in each of the 12 publicly voted categories now have a nail-biting wait to hear if they will be amongst the dazzling dozen to lift an award when they attend the glittering gala awards dinner at Oakwood House Hotel, Maidstone, on Friday, March 2.

This year has seen a 20 per cent increase in voting by the public.

Produced in Kent manager Julie Monkman said: "The Taste of Kent Awards seeks to recognise and reward Kent's food and drink heroes. The awards have once again really captured the imagination of the general public and it's great to see the consumers of Kent voting in their thousands for their favourite restaurants, dining pubs and farmers' markets – as well as the food and drink producers behind the county's award-winning food and drink products.

"With everything from apple ketchup to sloe gin chocolates passing by the judging panel at the end of January, the team will certainly have their taste buds tested as they have to choose just one winner in each category."

The biggest increases in voting came in the Kent Restaurant of the Year category, which saw a 59 per cent increase in votes, and the Kent Local Food Retailer of the Year, which was up by a massive 78 per cent.

Now the three best in all 12 categories will come under the scrutiny of an expert panel of judges, mystery shoppers and diners.

To follow the awards visit www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk.

VOCAL SUPPORT: Produced in Kent's Julie Monkman presenting last year's Taste of Kent Awards

PRODUCED IN KENT'S SHORTLIST FOR

TASTE OF KENT AWARDS

KENT MEAT RETAILER OF THE YEAR: Butcher of Brogdale, Faversham; Godmersham Game, Canterbury; JC Rook and Son, Ramsgate

BEST KENTISH BEER: 1606 Bitter – Old Forge Brewery, Ashford; Gadds No 3 – Ramsgate Brewery, Ramsgate; Master Brew – Shepherd Neame, Faversham

BEST KENT WINE: Ortega 2010 – Biddenden Vineyards, Biddenden; English Rose – Chapel Down Winery, Tenterden; Vintage reserve Brut – Chapel Down Winery, Tenterden

BEST KENT CIDER OR PERRY: Appley Ever After – Big Three Cider, Hartley, Dartford; Biddenden Strong Kentish Cider – Biddenden Vineyards, Biddenden; Duddas Tun – Pine Trees Farm, Doddington

BEST KENTISH FRUIT JUICE: Apple juice – Biddenden Vineyards, Biddenden; Cox/Bramley apple juice – Core Fruit Products, Canterbury; Cox apple juice – Duskins, Canterbury

KENT LOCAL FOOD RETAILER OF THE YEAR: Hadlow College Farm Shop, Hadlow; Macknade Fine Foods, Faversham; Mama Feelgoods, Bekesbourne, Canterbury

KENT SEAFOOD RETAILER OF THE YEAR: Eddie Gilberts, Ramsgate; Griggs of Hythe, Hythe; Sankey's Tunbridge Wells

ARTISAN FOOD RETAILER OF THE YEAR: Simply Ice Cream, Ashford; Taywell Ice Cream, Paddock Wood; Quex Foods, Birchington

KENT RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR: Elvey Farm, Pluckley; Marquis of Alkham, Alkham; Mulberry Tree, Boughton Monchelsea

KENT DINING PUB OF THE YEAR: The Halfway House, Challock; Pearsons Arms by Richard Phillips, Whitstable; The Plough at Stalisfield Green, Faversham

KENT FARMERS' MARKET OF THE YEAR: Cliftonville; Hildenborough; Shipbourne

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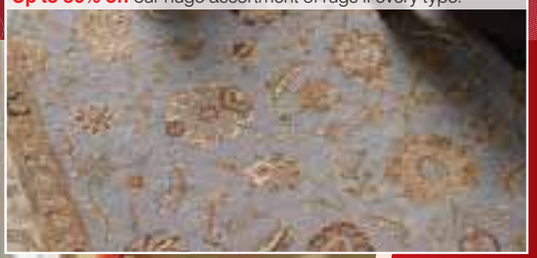

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TELEVISION

Kent author's work the hidden inspiration behind hit TV show

TV DETECTIVES: Martin Freeman and Benedict Cumberbatch

Exclusive by Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

AS BBC TV's hit show Sherlock reaches a climax this weekend, the previously unknown origins of the reinvention of the detective who was first created by the pen of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in 1887 have been revealed.

The show's creators Steven Moffat and Mark Gattis have transferred the adventures of the Baker Street sleuth and his accomplice Dr John Watson to the 21st century, to great acclaim from viewers and critics.

But it was the work of Ashford author Michael Hardwick which was largely to be their inspiration.

Mr Hardwick, who died in 1991, lived in The Street, Kennington, with wife Mollie, also a writer.

During his life he created many new Sherlock Holmes adventures in the Conan Doyle style, as well as writing the novelisation of an irreverent film made by American director Billy Wilder called The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes.

This has now been revealed as one of the major influences of the new show, by Steven Moffat who was speaking to the Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

REFRESHING READ: The BBC's Steven Moffat revealed that Michael Hardwick's 'fun' adaptation of the Sherlock Holmes story was a key inspiration for the TV series

Holmes expert Alistair Duncan was in the audience and recorded his thoughts on the speech on a website dedicated to the show.

He said: "The series' roots appear to lie in... Moffat's love of the incarnations of Holmes that were a little irreverent and, in his words, 'more fun'.

"He referred to the films of Basil Rathbone and the film The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes and, in particular, his discovery of the novel based on the film.

"Much to our amusement he referred more than once – I think about five times – to his shock at the sight of a certain naked woman who was to be found on the book's cover."

The new show, which has its last outing on BBC One at 9pm on Sunday, stars Benedict Cumberbatch as Holmes with Martin Freeman as his colleague Dr Watson.

The coming episode is entitled The Reichenbach Fall, a pun on the location in Switzerland where the original literary Holmes had a fatal confrontation with arch enemy Professor James Moriarty.

The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes is a 1970 film that starred Robert Stephens in the title role and Colin Blackley as Watson.

■ **More news and sport at www.yourashford.co.uk.**

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KOS CAMPAIGN

A free safety gas check could be the difference between life and death

By Ed Hill
ed.hill@archant.co.uk

Surviving Winter

ACCORDING to the Gas Safety Register 81 per cent of elderly homeowners in Kent have never claimed a free gas safety check.

The industry body is urging people who are entitled to the service to contact their gas supplier during the colder months.

It says when a gas boiler, gas fire or heater fails, the average home can quickly drop to 16°C, the temperature at which hypothermia can set in.

These low temperatures are more serious for the elderly, whose temperature falls faster than younger people.

According to the Office of National Statistics, around 4,000 people in the South East died as a result of the cold last year.

Archant KOS Media is backing the Surviving Winter Campaign organised by the Kent Community Foundation.

The scheme invites well-off households to donate some or all of their £200 winter fuel payment to poorer elderly or vulnerable people. The payment is given tax-free by the Government to every house with a person aged 60 or over.

The UK has the highest winter death rate in northern Europe, so gas appliances need to be checked so they will get elderly people safely through the winter.

The cold weather can cause or exacerbate illnesses such as high blood pressure, thrombosis or respiratory infections, as it weakens the immune system.

Signs that a gas boiler is not working correctly and producing dangerous carbon monoxide may include sooty stains on or around appliances, floppy yellow flames (instead of crisp blue ones), and excessive condensation in a room.

Paul Johnston, chief executive of the Gas Safe Register, said: "We're urging everyone to take whatever support they can to keep safe and warm this winter.

"Having your gas appliances checked annually is vital to ensure they are running safely. If you don't get your appliances checked every year, you are risking gas leaks, fires, explosions or carbon monoxide poisoning.

SAFE AND SOUND: The Gas Safety Register urged everyone to take all the support they can to keep warm during the winter

"Although all appliances need to be checked every year, it's very important for elderly people as appliances in their homes tend to be older and not as reliable."

■ **To find out if you're eligible for a free gas safety check, visit www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk.**

■ **To donate to the Surviving Winter campaign visit www.kentcf.org.uk/surviving_winter.html.**

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HISTORY

Long forgotten polar explorer's letters rediscovered in ceiling

Exclusive by Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE chance rediscovery of papers up to 150 years old may shed further light on the story of a forgotten hero from Dover.

Explorer, botanist and surgeon Dr Reginald Koettlitz made trips to the north and south Arctic regions, across Africa, and down the Amazon.

But a falling-out with legendary explorer Dr Robert Falcon Scott has led to him being largely forgotten as his contributions to the great days of exploration were ignored or overlooked by the establishment of the time.

Gus Jones has written a book on the doctor's exploits and is now waiting to study further documents.

They had been stored at a building which occupies 151-153 Folkestone Road, Dover. It is now flats but was once the home of Dr Koettlitz.

Fifteen years ago plumber Gary Rogers, from Dover, was working on the site when a ceiling collapsed, showering him in debris.

Amongst the plaster he found correspondence and notes from the period 1860-1900 from Dr Koettlitz.

Writer Mr Jones, whose wife Ann is a relative of the explorer, said: "Gary kept the documents until he learnt of my interest. Then he gave them to me. My first job is to clean them up, but I'm hoping they will give an even greater insight into a man who has, up until now, been lost to the pages of history."

Dr Koettlitz was a day-boy at Dover College from 1873-76 and worked as a doctor in the town, with a surgery at Charlton House, London Road, when not away on expeditions.

On one trip to the far north he shot a polar bear for its meat. He later had this stuffed and placed in a shop window in the town to advertise a series of lectures taking place in the town hall and at the college.

HISTORIC: Dr Reginald Koettlitz sailed with Dr Robert Falcon Scott. Dr Koettlitz is pictured below in his doctor's surgery, and wearing polar clothing. Also pictured are the polar bear he ate, and a poster for one of his talks

The bear is now on display in Dover Museum, which also has skis, snow shoes and medical equipment from Dr Koettlitz's polar expeditions, when he was part of Scott's crew on board RRS (Royal Research Ship) Discovery.

Five months after setting sail on August 6, 1901, from the Isle of Wight, the crew sighted the Antarctic coastline.

During the first month Scott began charting the coastline. Then, in preparation for the winter, he weighed anchor in the treacherous and icy waters of McMurdo Sound. The ship remained there, locked in ice, for the next two years – the expedition had expected to spend the winter there and to move on in the spring.

Despite this, the explorers were able to confirm that Antarctica was indeed a continent rather than a sheet of ice, as is the North Pole region, and they were able to determine the Southern Magnetic Pole to its correct location.

Scott, along with colleagues Ernest Shackleton and Edward Wilson also achieved a 'Furthest South' of 82 degrees 18 minutes.

The ship was eventually freed on February 16, 1904, by the use of controlled explosives which allowed the ice to be moved away by butting and shunting, thus assisting in the breakup of the ice.

THE DOVER INSTITUTE
The National Antarctic Expedition
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RRS Discovery finally sailed for home, arriving back at Spithead on September 10, 1904.

The vessel, which gave its name to Arthur C Clarke's spaceship in the film 2001 A Space Odyessey and also a Nasa space shuttle, is now moored at Dundee.

Mr Jones will talk about his research to the Dover Society this Monday at St Mary's Parish Hall in the town centre.

■ **For more information about the new book, see p47.**

■ **All the latest news and sport headlines at www.yourdover.co.uk.**

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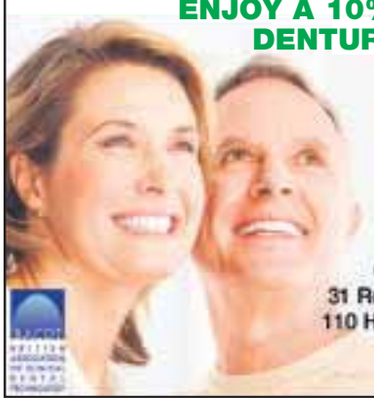

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News

REGENERATION

Public inquiry holds key to future plans for Dreamland

By Ed Hill
ed.hill@archant.co.uk

THE two-week public inquiry into the future of Margate's Dreamland began this week.

Thanet District Council wants to push ahead with ambitious plans to turn it into a multi-million pound heritage theme park.

The council originally served a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) on the site's owner, the Margate Town Centre Regeneration Company (MTCRC) in June, 2010, after negotiations about its future broke down.

The council believes Dreamland, which closed in 2005, is key to the town's regeneration and, along with Turner Contemporary, heralds its revival.

It is working in partnership with the Dreamland Trust to create a heritage amusement park of historic rides, side shows and cafés.

Cllr Clive Hart, leader of Thanet council, said: "We have done everything we can to negotiate with the current owners to redevelop the site, but regrettably we have been forced down the CPO process for the benefit of the town.

UPS AND DOWNS: Dreamland's Scenic Railway

"We cannot have a such an important site in Margate blighted for much longer. The Turner gallery is making a big difference, but the seafront is not looking its best.

"Hopefully this will be the catalyst for other businesses in the town."

The initial improvements to the site have already secured £10 million of public funding if the council gets control of the 16-acre site: £3.7m from the Sea Change fund; £3m from the council; and £3m from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Work has already started on restoring the Grade-II listed cinema at the entrance to the park. The project also aims to make the Grade-II listed Scenic Railway rollercoaster, built in 1920, the centre of the attraction.

MTCRC has put forward its own regeneration plans for the site which includes an amusement park alongside 400 new homes. It argues the Dreamland Trust's scheme will not attract enough visitors and is not sustainable.

The inquiry is expected to end on January 25.

MTCRC's barrister at the inquiry Richard Glover QC said: "The council fails to show that it has the money to acquire the land and carry out the works it proposes. So it cannot provide any confidence that, if the order is confirmed, the scheme will happen."

A report from the Planning Inspector is expected in late February or early March.

■ **More news at www.yourthanet.co.uk.**

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News

CRIME

Illegal immigrants lucky to be caught by officials before freezing to death

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A LORRY driver tried to smuggle 16 illegal immigrants into Kent in the back of his refrigerated truck, but unlike 12 years ago when 58 Chinese nationals froze to death, they somehow survived.

The driver from Lithuania was stopped before his arrival in the county.

And luckily for those locked in the back of his freezing lorry, customs officials found them before they perished.

Redas Rauckis (pictured), was sentenced to four years' imprisonment by Judge Nigel van der Bijl who said no-one had been injured, but the immigrants were at risk of hypothermia because of the low temperature.

Now the 23-year-old has been ordered by Maidstone Crown Court to pay back £1,163.70 he made in illegal earning following a confiscation hearing.

Canterbury Crown Court heard in August last year, that Rauckis' truck was stopped in the early hours of Friday, May 20, 2011, at the freight control at Coquelles, France, and examined.

Inside, hidden among the load of frozen desserts which were being stored at -23 degrees centigrade, were the 16 illegal immigrants.

After the case Det Chief Insp Mark Fairhurst, from the Serious and Economic Crime Unit of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, said: "The Proceeds of Crime Act allows us to recover profits, and we will continue to work to ensure that those making a living from crime will be forced to pay back money obtained through illegal means."

In 2000, horrified customs officers found the bodies of 58 people, including four women, from China, in the back of a Dutch registered lorry.

It had just arrived in Dover on a ferry from Zeebrugge, Belgium. Customs opened it up to find a scene "out of a nightmare" as two men were gasping for breath. They were the only survivors amid the crates of tomatoes.

It's believed they had been locked in the lorry for around 18 hours in freezing conditions.

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News

HEALTH

Patients able to remain at home thanks to success of remote health monitoring

By Rob Colman
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A HEALTH scheme that was piloted in Kent is to be rolled out across the country.

The Kent test project for telehealth and telecare found the technology can lead to a 15 per cent reduction in accident and emergency visits, a 20 per cent drop in emergency admissions, and 14 per cent less planned admissions to hospital.

The technology is for patients with long-term conditions and uses electronic equipment in the home to read vital health signs such as pulse, weight, respiration and blood oxygen levels.

The results can be read remotely by health professionals, enabling patients to stay in their own homes safe in the knowledge that a doctor or nurse will be alerted if a problem should arise.

Telehealth uses electronic equipment to monitor patients' vital health signs and send readings to health professionals, while telecare offers 24-hour safety monitoring, using personal and environmental sensors in the home.

CHECK: Doctors do not need to be with their patients

Now the scheme is to be rolled out over the next five years to three million patients across the country with long-term conditions.

Care services minister Paul Burstow said: "These trials have shown how people with long-term conditions can live more independently, reducing the time spent in hospital and improving their quality of life."

The pilot found that, over a six-month period, telehealth technology resulted in savings of around £1,878 per patient; which could result in savings of £7.5 million across Kent.

Following the successful pilot project, NHS Kent and Medway, Kent Community Health Trust and Kent County Council are already working to bring telehealth and telecare to more patients in the county.

Researchers reported that telehealth lead to reductions of 45 per cent in mortality.

One patient who already uses the equipment is 54-year-old Haris Patel from Folkestone – who suffers from a number of health conditions.

He said: "Before I used to spend 10 months of each year in hospital. Since I got telehealth, I have been in for two weeks in three years, and that was planned. Telehealth gives me peace of mind."

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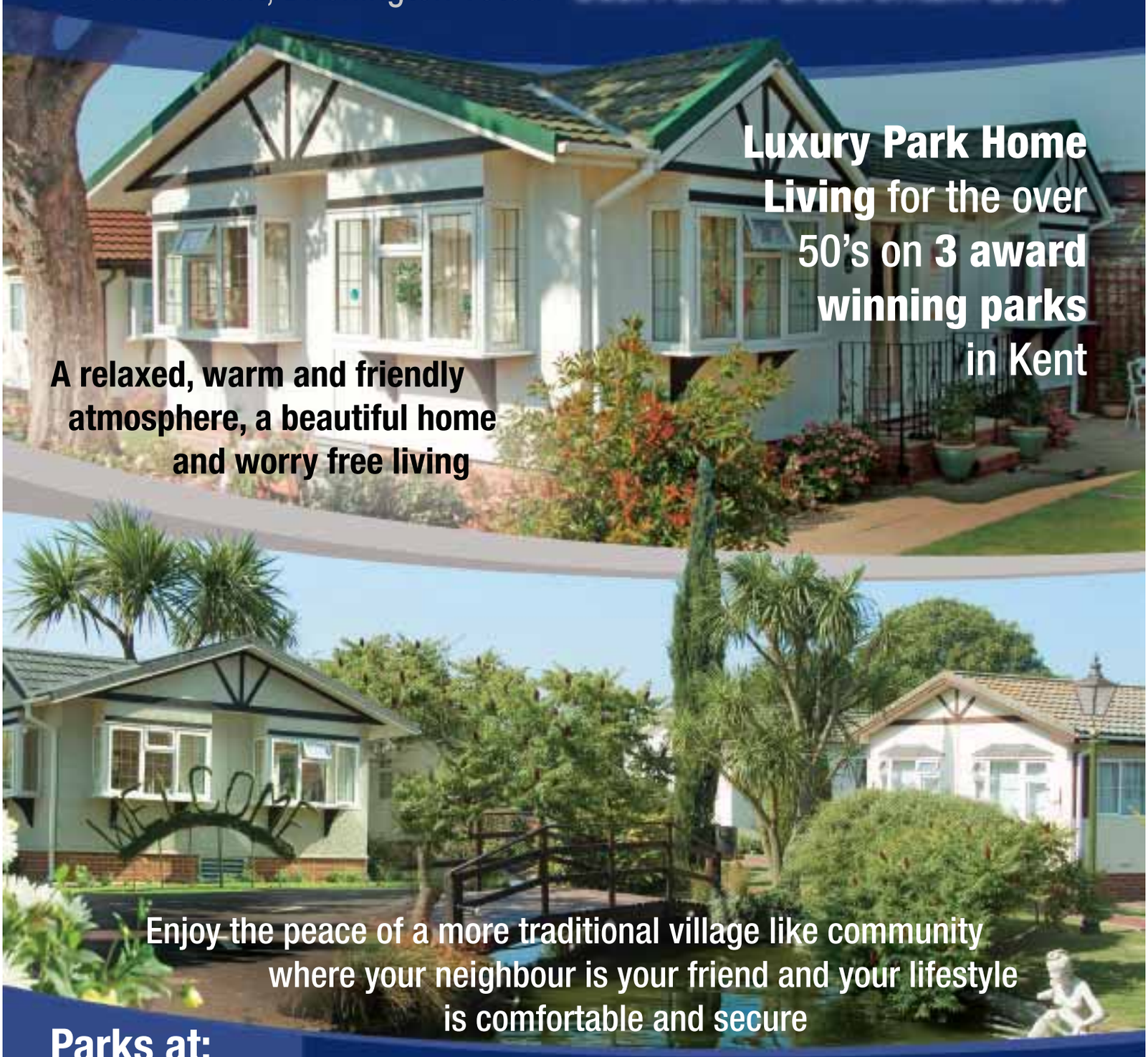

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FIRST GIFT: Octavia Hill (right) gave the National Trust one of its first properties in Toys Hill, (far right). Since then the trust has grown to acquire many more properties including, from the top, Sissinghurst, Scotney Castle, South Foreland Lighthouse and Emmetts Garden

ENVIRONMENT

Awards ensure the spirit of environmental hero lives on

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

VISIONARY campaigner Octavia Hill founded the National Trust, and to mark the centenary of her death, the organisation is launching a new hero award in her name.

The county has strong links to Ms Hill – who lived at Crockham Hill, near Westerham, where she is also buried.

And in 1898 she gave the Trust one of its first properties, in nearby Toys Hill village, and since then the Trust ownership has expanded until in 1981 it acquired the core of the woodlands through a special appeal.

It is now known as Octavia Hill Woodland and is home to the Octavia Hill Basecamp, used for group holidays, education and voluntary work.

During her lifetime, Octavia helped save two other Kent hills from development, Mariners Hill and Ide Hill.

Now the Trust wants to mark the her extraordinary work to preserve Britain's heritage and landscape, with the launch of the Octavia Hill Awards.

The trust said: "Octavia was a Victorian social reformer and a founder of the National Trust who set the standard in campaigning for green places.

"The Octavia Hill Awards, which mark the centenary of Octavia Hill's death, aim to find the modern-day champions and guardians of our precious pieces of outdoor space."

There are six individual awards up for grabs on an annual basis.

These are: growing hero for someone who's set up a community growing scheme, or saved allotments; the natural hero is for individuals working for community spaces like woodlands, nature reserves or orchards; inspirational hero recognises someone for nurturing the next generation of enthusiasts; and the people's campaigner celebrates someone in the public spotlight who has done something amazing to champion an issue or cause.

Also there are awards for green space guardians, and finally the love place award which is specifically for National Trust volunteers, individuals or groups, who have enabled communities to benefit from the open places.

Hilary McGrady, National Trust director for London and the South East said: "Octavia Hill was a social reformer, pioneering environmental campaigner and founder of the National Trust, she championed our green spaces during the period of rapid industrialisation and huge change that gripped Victorian Britain.

"She and her fellow campaigners saw a clear threat and wanted to protect these 'green lungs' in our towns and cities as places to enjoy the benefits of being in the outdoors,

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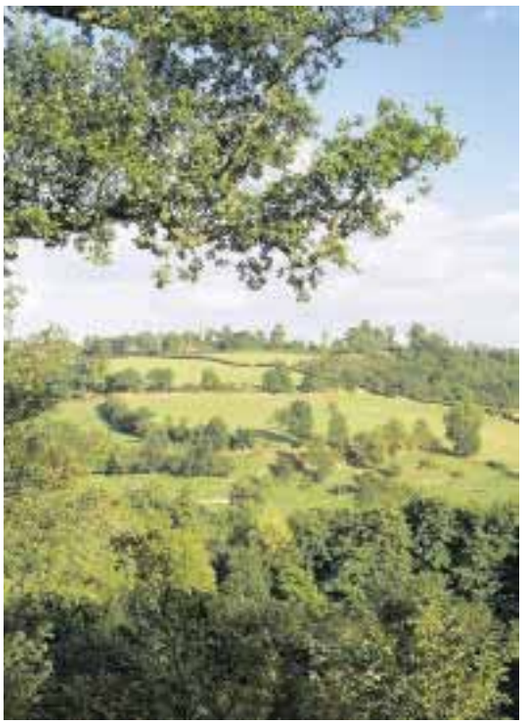

whether urban or rural. Out of this vision the National Trust was born as an organisation to acquire places of historic interest and natural beauty.

"We want to celebrate her life and legacy – she died in August 1912 – and recognise today's unsung heroes of the environmental movement, who make such a difference to our lives."

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INDUSTRY

Fishermen who sold up pour cold water on £3.8m regeneration study

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AS fishing companies continue to struggle in Kent's waters, it has been announced that £3.8 million of Euro funds have been made available to finance an academic project looking for ways to regenerate the industry.

But one major fishing firm that has just gone out of business after being based at Whitstable for 40 years says no-one in authority really cares about them and they were plagued with bureaucratic meddling.

Patrick and John Gilson ran their company Cardium Shellfish for decades, but in November they sold out to a Spanish company specialising in canning cockles.

Now researchers at the University of Greenwich at Medway are heading the £3.8m project to help regenerate coastal fishing communities in areas including Kent and across the Channel.

The team said it was focusing on towns and villages with traditional small scale fishing fleets, like Whitstable, and will be looking at the ways inshore fishing contributes to the identity of places and their communities as well as seeking new sustainable opportunities to boost regeneration and economic growth.

Patrick Gilson, 60, who now works for the new Spanish owner Dani Seafoods, told Archant KOS Media: "I can't believe they are spending so much money on something like this.

"The money would surely be better spent putting in a slipway at Whitstable so we can get our boats out of the water rather than have to sail miles to other ports. Plus it would be nice to have some basic facilities at the port like closer toilets and showers for the crews.

"I worked in Australia for a while, and over there, they can't do enough for the fishing crews.

"It's so different here – the bureaucrats are constantly sticking their noses in, coming up with ways to hamper the industry."

The University of Greenwich team is headed by environmental geographers Dr Tim Acott and Dr Julie Urquhart, plus social scientist Dr Minghua Zhao. The three-year project is called Geography of Inshore Fishing and Sustainability.

Dr Urquhart said: "Inshore marine fishing is at the heart of so many places, whether they have just a few small fishing boats on a beach or a harbour that is the centre of activity for a large fleet.

"You cannot think about places like Whitstable without recalling fishing and seafood. Inshore marine fishing is central to their identity."

The project is getting its cash from the European Regional Development Fund 2 Seas cross-border programme.

Project leader Dr Acott, added: "We will be building on valuable research we have already been doing in fishing communities."

He continued: "Working with researchers in France gives us a cross-cultural perspective and opportunities to share ideas – not least how the sense of identity within fishing communities can make a contribution to regeneration and sustainable economic growth.

"Our findings will help to provide the information people need to develop new activities to regenerate their communities and feed into policy decisions which will ensure a sustainable future. We are hoping to help create a sense of shared identity in fishing places."

Plans include photographic exhibitions about life in fishing communities and a demonstration of fishing heritage-led regeneration at the fishing village of Arnemuiden, in The Netherlands.

Ironically, the academics used a picture of former Cardium's OlyRay fishing boat in their publicity. Patrick added: "I am amazed they have used a picture of our boat, considering we had to sell up. It really is quite ironic.

"I can't see how a photographic exhibition will help us, and I really don't understand what 'heritage-led regeneration' means or how it will enable the fleets to make a better living."

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IRONIC: The OlyRay is pictured in report publicity

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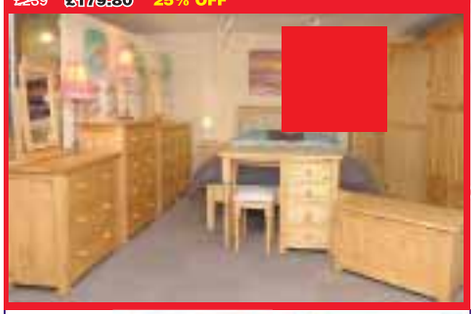

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

CALM BEFORE THE STORM: 15,000-tonne battleship HMS Bulwark moored on the Medway in 1914

Dockyard hit twice by death and destruction

By Rob Colman
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE Medway's historic dock has played a prominent role in the history of British maritime for almost 400 years.

The dockyard covers an area of 80 acres with around 100 superbly crafted buildings built mostly between 1704 and 1855, and has served some of the most prestigious battleships in history, but also survived historic major disasters.

On November 26, 1914, HMS Bulwark, a 15,000-tonne battleship, was moored at buoy number 17 at Kethole Reach on the River Medway, taking on coal from the airship base at Kingsnorth, on the Isle of Grain.

At 7.50am, as the crew were having breakfast, an explosion ripped the ship apart, and was heard as far away as Whitstable and Southend.

Eye witnesses said once the smoke has cleared, there was no sign of the ship. Naval divers who investigated the wreck three days after the explosion found just two large fragments of wreckage – a section of the port bow as far aft as the sick bay, and 30ft away a section of the starboard bow.

Debris from the explosion fell up to four miles away.

In all, the explosion killed 745 men and 51 officers.

Five of the 14 men who survived later died of their wounds, and almost all of the others were seriously wounded.

There are mass and individual graves in Woodlands Cemetery in Gillingham for the Bulwark's dead, many of whom originated from the Portsmouth area. In terms of loss of life it remains the second worst explosion in British history.

UP IN SMOKE: Hundreds died aboard the ship during the explosion

Many at the time immediately suspected sabotage.

The subsequent Naval Court of Inquiry, held at the Royal Naval Hospital, Gillingham, found that much of the ammunition for the ships guns had been stored in the corridors between the 11 magazines, and that either a fault with one of the shells or overheating cordite near a boiler room bulkhead could have started a chain reaction which destroyed the ship.

While the dockyard was still coming to terms with the catastrophe of HMS Bulwark, less than six months later a second explosion erupted.

This time it was the 1,500 passenger liner Princess Irene, a ship commandeered for war service before she could leave Britain.

Built at Dumbarton, Scotland, in 1914 for Canadian Pacific, she became HMS Princess Irene and was used as a mine layer.

After several trips she was back at Medway for a refit on May 27, 1915, when a huge explosion tore through the vessel, shaking the ground for miles and showering villages with remains of bodies and debris.

In all 278 died, including 78 workers from nearby towns and villages.

Once again sabotage was suspected, but it would seem the mine charges were unstable and awaiting replacement.

Most of the bodies of the men who were killed in the explosion on HMS Princess Irene are still at the bottom of the Medway Estuary.

Of those that were washed ashore, 10 are buried in a communal grave with unidentified men who died on HMS Bulwark.

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OPINION

21st century healthcare

Alison Davis explains how new NHS technology tested by patients in Kent is set to help transform the home lives of three million people

TECHNOLOGY pioneered in Kent is set to transform life for at least three million people across the country.

Locally, we have already seen what a dramatic effect telecare and telehealth can have on the daily life and wellbeing of people with long-term health problems after it was introduced by the primary care trusts in Kent and Kent County Council seven years ago.

Take, for instance, Haris Patel, 54, from Folkestone whose health conditions include problems caused by hardening of the arteries.

He said: "Before I had telehealth, I used to spend 10 months of each year in hospital. Since I got it, I have been in for two weeks in the last three years, and that was planned. Telehealth gives me peace of mind."

Now the Department of Health is so impressed with the results of the Whole System Demonstrator Programme, which tested the technology in Kent, Cornwall and Newham, that it is championing its use nationwide.

The project found there was a 45 per cent reduction in deaths among patients taking part, a 15 per cent drop in attendance at A&E, and 20 per cent fewer emergency admissions to hospital.

Care services minister Paul Burstow said: "People were absolutely clear that high-tech healthcare has improved their lives for the better.

"I want to see more people across the country benefit. That is why we are working with industry, the NHS and councils to change the lives of three million people across England over the next five years."

So what is this technology? Telecare, introduced in Kent in 2004, offers remote monitoring of people's safety. Available to vulnerable people, who meet specific criteria, it consists of sensors that can be worn (such as a falls monitor on the belt) or placed in the home (such as a flood alarm if someone might not remember to turn off the taps).

Sensors are connected to a 24-hour monitoring centre which contacts the person and raises the alarm if there is a problem.

Telehealth, which enables remote monitoring of people's health, is even more innovative.

Available in Kent since 2005, it offers suitable patients with conditions such as diabetes, lung disease and heart disease, the chance to measure their pulse, blood pressure, blood glucose, blood oxygen level, peak flow (lung capacity), temperature and weight, all at home.

Their community matron from Kent Community Health NHS Trust, or specialist nurse, monitors their readings from day to day, picking up subtle changes in their health before they develop into something more serious.

"I want to see more people across the country benefit"

This helps people stay well – as does the power it gives them over their lives. People get to 'know their numbers' and understand the impact their day- to-day life has on their health, so they can spot when things are deteriorating and take action.

It has been such a success that the technology is no longer just a pilot – it is being rolled out across Kent and Medway and will be available as part of the care package for those who are eligible.

This is a wonderful example of what the NHS and social care can achieve by working closely together to improve the quality of life for local people.

■ Alison Davis is associate director of integrated commissioning with responsibility for technology for NHS Kent and Medway.

KOS COMMENT

The hidden reality of Kent's child poverty

THE shocking but grim reality that almost half of children living in some parts of Kent are in poverty is a stark reminder of how close to home this often hidden problem really is.

It's easy to dismiss poverty as something that happens elsewhere, but this is something that blights communities across our county.

The last few years have been tough for most, but there's a difference between not being able to buy those extra bits in the weekly shop, and struggling to feed your family and keep them warm through the winter.

This should be a wake-up call to the Government that something needs to be done urgently to ensure there's hope of a brighter future for these children.

Explorer rediscovered

WHILE most cases a roof collapsing would prove unlucky, in this instance it led to the discovery of evidence of a forgotten hero who may otherwise never have been recognised.

It's only right that after all these years explorer Dr Reginald Koettlitz gets the praise he deserves.

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HMS Cavalier at the Historic Dockyard Chatham by Paul Jerreat

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Let's catch the metal thieves

HOMES, churches, schools and businesses in the county are all suffering increasing levels of metal theft, with lead roofs, copper piping and electronic cabling all considered fair game.

Even manhole and gully covers have been disappearing from our roads, costing the taxpayer hundreds of pounds for each replacement.

Metal is a tempting target, not just because it is worth so much, but because it is so easily converted to cash.

Thieves now even resort to stealing metal name plaques from churchyards and war memorials, in exchange for a few pounds from unscrupulous scrap metal dealers.

The existing situation where anyone can sell anything to for cash, with no questions asked, has to be challenged.

We have been lobbying the Government to amend the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964, so all dealers are licensed, cash sales are prohibited and enforcement powers and penalties are enhanced so metal thieves face the full consequences of their crimes.

I would encourage anyone actually, or potentially, affected by metal theft to write to their MPs, asking them to support MP Graham Jones in his Metal Theft Prevention Bill.

And I would urge readers to report any thefts to the police and their Countrywatch contact. They might think it's not worth it, but the police cannot allocate resources on the basis of hearsay – they need statistics.

Judith Norris, chairman, Country Land and Business Association, Kent branch

Heed guiding lights advice

I DEFY anyone to drive one mile along any road in Thanet after lighting up time and not pass at least one car driving along with only one headlight working.

I recently followed a police car during holiday break and we passed two such cars – and the police did nothing.

If safe to do so, I stop drivers and point out that only one of their headlights is operational and most are grateful to be told, actually. Some tell me it's none of my business, though.

It can be extremely dangerous on a dark road to see one headlight approaching you, as you might think it was a motorbike.

I beg your readers to check their headlights. A bulb is cheaper than a written off car or, worse still, a funeral.

Paddy Earp, Broadstairs

Reader's right to sound off

I AM writing in support of JR O'Neon's letter (last week).

I am unable to comprehend how this annoying background music can be held to improve the content of so many TV programmes.

Surely the only reason for any such music is to improve the atmosphere, not to boost the income of whoever gains from this practice.

Put a stop to it now, please.

Charles Wanostrocht, Sandwich

County Hall in need of change

LAST week's letter from Terry Hudson on the unaccountable and dysfunctional actions of Kent County Council and its Tory leaders was spot on.

To think this council takes the lion's share of our local council tax and then fritters away hard-earned cash on astronomical pay-offs instead of de-icing roads, mending potholes and pavements, cutting back roadside hedgerows and tending trees.

Maybe another shake-up of local government layers is due, or we can kick out these uncaring Conservatives in the May, 2013, elections.

Alan Bullion, Tunbridge Wells

Energy needs policy rethink

ONCE again Ian Taylor wheels out his climate change denial and economic status quo view (last week's paper).

The fact is that Green politics is based on established and irrefutable science about man-made climate change, and far more progressive social, economic and environmental ideas than any of the old parties.

Even the likes of Viscount Monkton et al, usually say they accept climate change is happening and our fault, but whine about supposed costs and future computer projections of the consequences.

On costs though, a recent report by Prof David Mackay at the Department of Energy and Climate Change suggests that low-carbon energy is "no dearer than doing nothing".

Granted he includes nuclear, but far more sensible in my view would be a great expansion of solar panelling.

Instead of the Coalition cutting the subsidies and speeding up the other renewables like tidal and wind to help cover future energy usage I, and the Greens, suggest this would also help create far more jobs in those industries rather than in persisting with more highly centralised, secretive and overly powerful nuclear and fossil fuelled ones.

As for thorium use, this may be being pursued in India, but it is still only in its infancy, unproven, and is again a fossil fuel.

The UK would have to pay to mine and transport it for use here, thus releasing more greenhouse gases in the process.

On fracking I point out that last month's report by Deloitte showed that most of the farmers in the US who leased land for that process now very much regret doing so, and the US Eco Protection Agency has shown the polluting of water tables, including by methane, caused by fracking.

In general, many commentators and economists are now saying we simply cannot continue with more of the same social, economic policies that have brought us to our current parlous state.

Harking back to 18th and 19th century models of growth, as the Tories, Lib Dems and still neo-con Labour, appear to be doing, will only result in a return of Dickensian levels of penury and misery for the 99 per cent, while the top one per cent continue to get the spoils.

Instead we need a paradigm shift to, I suggest, a green, democratic and co-operative society including social enterprises and worker councils on larger firms, a la the old German model.

These, as has been suggested along prosperity without growth lines in books, of the same title, by Dr Tim Jackson, itself recommended by no less than Prince Charles, the New Economics Foundation, Green Party, TUC, and many others.

Ray Duff, Folkestone

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P&O ready to challenge Eurotunnel in ferry saga

THERE'S A STORM COMING: SeaFrance has been placed in administration and its ships docked

Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

FERRY giant P&O has threatened to report Eurotunnel to the European Commission if its plan to buy the ships of the insolvent SeaFrance breaches European competition rules.

P&O Ferries, which accounts for some 30 per cent of traffic on the Dover to Calais route between England and France, gave the warning after Eurotunnel, the Channel Tunnel operator, revealed that it might buy SeaFrance's three ships from the company's administrator.

Eurotunnel executive chairman Jacques Gounon said his company could lease the ships, all built in the last five years, to a new operator, possibly formed from a cooperative of SeaFrance staff.

France's Tribunal de Commerce ordered SeaFrance's liquidation on Monday after it ruled out accepting any of the bids that had been made for the company.

SNCF, France's rail company, owns the maritime operator, which had long been making a loss on the highly-competitive route, where its main competitors are P&O, a British-registered company but with the government of Dubai as its sole shareholder, Denmark's DFDS and Eurotunnel, which in recent years has carried about 40 per cent of the traffic.

The closure of the company would lead to 127 job losses in Dover and up to 900 more across the Channel.

A lack of investment, rising fuel prices and industrial unrest have all hit the French company hard and a large number of strikes have taken place over bank-holiday weekends by a militant, unionised workforce, while freight traffic has decreased due to the economic downturn and Eurozone crisis.

SeaFrance's vessels have been tied up out of use since the court placed the company in administration in November. French president Nicolas Sarkozy has backed efforts to find a way of saving the 1,100 jobs at SeaFrance, whose fate has become a big issue ahead of April's presidential election. He said on Monday: "I believe it is possible to say there will be a credible solution."

A statement from Chris Laming, P&O communications director, called the saga a "never-ending battle" to persuade the French authorities that there should be a level playing field between operators.

"If we felt that competition rules were being breached by our major cross-Channel competitor – Eurotunnel, with 40 per cent of the market – we would complain vigorously to the competition authorities in a bid to protect our own position," he said. "But the ball is very much in their [Eurotunnel's] court."

Under the Eurotunnel plan, the Tunnel operator would buy the ships as an investment and lease them to a new market entrant.

M Gounon said: "We cannot let the only French company in the port of Calais disappear."

He added that a cooperative of SeaFrance workers was the "most credible" proposition for SeaFrance and "the most socially acceptable". The court, however, ruled out the workers' bid.

Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet, France's ecology and transport minister, said another company, Louis Dreyfus Armateurs, had put in a bid for SeaFrance but it had been rejected by a French court.

APPRENTICESHIPS

MP pleased with hefty rise in apprenticeships

GOVERNMENT figures show there were more than 700 apprenticeship starts in Sittingbourne and Sheppey in 2011, compared with 440 the previous year – a rise of 64 per cent.

Local MP Gordon Henderson said he was a strong supporter of apprenticeships and was positive this growth would be a long-term trend as employers and potential apprentices began to see the benefits of an apprenticeship for themselves, their businesses and the economy.

Sittingbourne and Sheppey has long been home to a wealth of industries, with Sheerness docks, a steelworks and brickworks, Kent Science Park and Kemsley paper mill, along with business parks hosting many small and medium-sized businesses.

Kent Science Park is also proving popular with businesses looking to start up or relocate.

There is also the recently-built Morrisons distribution centre and possible future business investment in Vestas and Aesica Pharmaceuticals on Sheppey, which holds potential for the future of apprenticeships in the area.

Mr Henderson said: "I support the measures to make it easier to take on apprentices and want to support businesses in increasing the number of apprenticeships within my constituency."

SEMINAR

Forum shows you how to use public relations to boost your business

THE good, the bad and the ugly sides of public relations will be discussed during the inaugural Institute of Directors marketing and communications forum.

The seminar, delivered by Tunbridge Wells PR and marketing agency Maxim, will encourage attendees to consider how they can use PR to build a stronger company profile.

Andrew Metcalf, a director of Maxim and vice-chair of IoD Kent, will be at the event.

He said: "This forum will provide an insight into the world of public relations, giving delegates tips on how to both avoid the pitfalls and make PR work for their organisation.

"It is also an opportunity for business leaders to reflect on how best to protect their hard-earned reputations and what may work for them when it comes to marketing during 2012."

Simon Robinson, senior account executive at Maxim, will also speak.

He said: "During my time as business editor at Kent on Sunday I saw many examples of good PR and well-written press releases but, sadly, many examples of releases that did not hit the mark.

"By following a few simple tips you can give your press releases a greater chance of being used."

The event will take place at the Clydesdale Financial Services Centre at Turkey Mill, Maidstone, on Monday (January 16) from 8.15am-10am. It is priced at £15 for IoD members and £25 for non-members. Phone 023 80266548 to book a place.

ENVIRONMENT

Private hospital given international award

MARGATE'S Spencer Private Hospital, which provides healthcare for both private and NHS-funded patients, has received an award for its commitment to environmental issues.

It has been given an ISO 14001 – an internationally-accepted standard that assists organisations in putting into place an effective environmental management system.

It was instigated via guidelines set down by the first Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992.

The hospital has a 22-en-suite-bed unit on the site of the QEQM Hospital and a five-bed unit within the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

This award is for the management of administration systems supporting the care provided within the hospitals.

Manager Lynn Orrin said: "As part of our ongoing commitment to minimise our company's environmental impact, we looked to establish an environmental management system that would support the organisation's commitment to this important issue.

"To achieve the award, the organisation identified and recorded the environmental aspects and impacts of its activities."

HAVE YOU GOT A BUSINESS STORY? Telephone editorial on 01303 817181 or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Eco-friendly rail freight service is put back on track

INTERNATIONAL logistics business Stobart Group has restarted its low-carbon, rail freight service between Valencia in Spain and Barking, east London, using the lines at Folkestone.

The seasonal rail service is operated by Europorte Channel, part of GB Railfreight, the third largest rail freight operator in the UK and a subsidiary of Groupe Eurotunnel. It will carry 30 chilled containers of fruit and vegetables from Spain to supermarkets and retailers in the UK.

The first train was monitored throughout the journey by the latest satellite tracking software, which closely observes progress and ensures the temperature of each 45ft-long, refrigerated container remains suitably chilled.

The journey takes just over 50 hours, with the service passing through Spain, France and the Channel Tunnel. It saves some 250 cross-continent truck journeys every month, slashing vehicle carbon emissions and cutting congestion on Spanish, French and British motorways.

In an innovative move, Europorte Channel and Network Rail have used the international rail lines at the Folkestone end of the tunnel, removing the need for an extra stop on the northbound leg of the journey – cutting costs and journey time.

The new service has been part-funded by a European Union Marco Polo grant and will initially run weekly, building up to five services per week at peak times.

Liam Martin, Stobart Rail freight managing director, said: "The resumption of this seasonal service has been driven by the commercial advantages it offers and the environmental benefits. It will help take trucks off European motorways and ease congestion at key pinch-points such as the Pyrenees.

Kevin Walker, director for Europorte Channel, said: "Working closely with the team at Stobart Rail, we have been able to adapt to the demand of our customer and to the challenges of such a long route through the European railway network. This is a truly international partnership that demonstrates the added value cross-Channel rail freight can bring."

Expert advice for small companies

CHARTERED accountancy group ICAEW has launched an initiative in Kent to help small companies and start-ups with business and financial advice to aid economic growth.

The Business Advice Service (BAS) says it can open the door to expert guidance on how best to start, plan, manage and grow a business.

Mark Spofforth, ICAEW deputy president, said: "Start-ups or growing small businesses need the best advice to succeed at a time of fragile recovery and limits on public spending.

"In response, BAS will offer SMEs the opportunity to discuss their business with a qualified chartered accountant through a free initial consultation. ICAEW chartered accountants will be able to offer expert advice on a whole range of issues facing them – from starting a business to turnaround, restructuring, financial management or taxation issues."

Fay Webster, South East regional director, said: "SME growth is crucial to the UK's economic success. In tough economic conditions, small businesses need the right advice and support to succeed.

"With the Government looking to encourage an export-led recovery, SMEs should seek out opportunities overseas to bolster growth."

Polished performance is a winner for one colourful husband-and-wife team

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A DISASTER-restoration and cleaning business that came to the rescue of 200 flooded homes and businesses has won a national award.

Wayne and Chris Crossfield, who run the Swanley branch of Rainbow International, were inundated with calls for help during last winter's cold snap.

The couple and their team worked round the clock helping flood victims across south-east London and north-west Kent. In addition, throughout the year the company has come to the aid of homes and businesses that have been hit by fire, flood and accidental damage.

Now its efforts have been recognised with the Franchisee Of The Month award, beating off competition from 85 other franchises.

The couple started the business three years ago and now have a five-strong team of skilled technicians. During that time they have doubled their operating area and have recently moved into a 2,500 sq ft emergency response centre in Park Road, Swanley.

Rainbow International specialises in restoring homes and businesses following fire, flood or accidental damage, as well as providing a commercial and domestic cleaning service.

The couple have invested £100,000 in specialist equipment and training, including deep-cleaning tools for commercial kitchens and ductwork, thermal-imaging equipment and leak-detection equipment to provide a fast service for dealing with escapes of water.

The business also provides a restoration service for damaged office equipment and household contents, including antique restoration.

SHINING: Wayne and Chris Crossfield are congratulated by technical manager Nigel Hewitt, right

Mr Crossfield said: "We have invested heavily in equipment and staff training to ensure we can provide a fast, effective service and that investment is paying off through the growth of our business.

"It's a real boost to win this award and I am grateful to all our staff for their continued support and commitment."

Rainbow's Phil Else said: "Wayne and Chris thoroughly deserve this award. They are a credit to the company and a first-class example of what can be achieved with a can-do attitude."

Cruise terminal preparing for busy season with 250,000 passengers expected to dock at Dover

WITH 156 visits from cruiseliners, the 2012 cruise season is going to be another busy year for Dover Cruise Port.

More than 250,000 passengers will experience the facilities and services available at the port's cruise terminals and the attractions on offer.

Ships from prominent cruise organisations including Fred Olsen, Saga, Holland America, Ibercruceros and Pullmantur will all return to Dover Cruise Port as well as the extremely popular AIDA with inaugural visits by AIDAluna and AIDAmar.

Other inaugural calls include Oceania's Nautica, All Leisure Group's Discovery, Royal Caribbean's Brilliance Of The Seas and the Costa Fortuna.

Saga's regular visiting vessels, Pearl II and Ruby, will be joined by new ship Sapphire for the first time in May 2012.

Highlights during the season also include Azamara Journey, making its Dover debut early next summer, and the return of MSC's Lirica and Poesia to the port on four occasions during the season, operating four-night mini-cruise itineraries to and from Amsterdam and Hamburg.

Hapag Lloyd's Europa and Windstar's Windsurf will also dock, enabling passengers to experience what Kent has to offer as part of their northern European itineraries.

Kate O'Hara, head of commercial and marketing at the Port of Dover, said: "First-class levels of service, excellent facilities and a wealth of shore excursion opportunities, coupled with the high-speed rail service to the centre of London, have contributed significantly to the growth we are enjoying.

"Repeat customers already know there's no better way to start a European cruise than sailing into the sunset against a backdrop of the White Cliffs."

STARTING POINT: Dover Cruise Port will host visits from prominent ships

Apprenticeships could benefit economy... not just the young

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE FUTURE'S LOOKING BRIGHT: The Government is offering employers up to £1,500 in incentive payments if they choose to take on young apprentices

A LEADING voice in the business community has vowed to do all in its power to assist young people who can't find work and is lobbying Westminster for greater help.

The Federation Of Small Businesses says the 85 additional unemployed people in Kent and Medway revealed in the latest jobless figures "might not appear significant", but members say it is devastating that they join more than 35,000 people in the county without a job.

Canterbury, with a high proportion of employment in the public sector (40+ per cent) suffered the biggest downturn, with 74 more people joining the dole queue – a criterion that would qualify new jobs for an employers' National Insurance incentive in the west and north of the UK but that has not been forthcoming in Kent.

The group is particularly concerned at the effect unemployment has on young people trying to start their careers.

Roger House, FSB chairman in Kent and Medway, said: "The FSB has been lobbying the Government to implement job-creation incentives. Following our disappointment at the rejection of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership bid for funding to support apprenticeships in Kent, we very much welcome new measures announced by the Business Secretary on November 16 that should ensure more young people will benefit from an apprenticeship."

To encourage thousands of small firms that don't hire apprentices, the Government will offer employers an incentive payment of up to £1,500 and processes will be simplified to make it quicker and easier for employers to take one on.

Mr House said: "A third of businesses responding to an FSB survey said this would encourage them to take an apprentice on, and a rebalancing of current funding to provide this is something the FSB has called for, for some time.

"Nevertheless, there remains a need for a continued focus on helping small businesses overcome the barriers that they face in doing so."

The Government terminated its Graduate Internship Scheme earlier this year – which the FSB believes was an error. The programme had supported paid internships in small businesses for 8,500 graduates.

The federation says it is still calling on the Government to extend the scheme because at least 5,000 new internship placements can be made at a cost to Government of £8 million – instantly reducing benefit payments by at least £1.5m.

Mr House said: "With 25 per cent of interns being offered permanent work, this would also boost Treasury coffers by a further £3.37m over the course of one year in reduced Job Seekers Allowance payments and add a further £5.4m in tax payments, as well as boosting the productivity of the UK economy. We are urging the Government to reintroduce this scheme."

The FSB says more than three-quarters of 11- to 18-year olds (77 per cent) say they would like to start their own business in the future.

Members feel education systems across the UK should nurture entrepreneurship so future generations are equipped with the confidence and skills to run their own business. Young Enterprise provides an opportunity for students aged 15-19 to set up and run their own company.

Mr House said: "The FSB is working with Young Enterprise across Kent and Medway to encourage schools to join the YE Company Programme.

"The FSB has set aside £5,000 sponsorship to assist schools to participate in the programme and to give young people the employability skills they need."

Schools not currently running Young Enterprise and who would like more information should phone FSB 01622 688134 or email office.kent@fsb.org.uk.

Services-provider is cutting its carbon footprint by introducing new river jetty

FM Conway has marked its 50th anniversary with the opening of its asphalt plant in Erith and a new Thamesside jetty.

These two new additions mean the company can supply asphalt products, increase its recycling capacity and take delivery of aggregates by ship.

This use of river transportation will reduce the number of lorry movements in and around London by 15,000 journeys a year, thereby reducing CO_2 emissions by 1,025 tonnes per annum.

Conway's Erith plant is the most energy-efficient facility of its kind in the UK.

Since becoming operational 15 months ago, the plant has become the busiest single asphalt plant in the country, with operational availability 24 hours a day, all year round.

MAIN MAN: Michael Conway

Michael Conway, chief executive officer for FM Conway, said: "This asphalt plant is the realisation of our goal to become a truly integrated service-provider."

During operations the plant has so far produced more than 450,000 tonnes of asphalt. The material produced has paved roads and been used for schools, hospitals, dockyards, rail depots, car parks and areas of the Olympic Park.

The asphalt plant delivers products that have been developed by Conway's research-and-development team at the material-testing laboratory at nearby Mulberry Way.

The new Conway Jetty and Wharf will receive more than 250,000 tonnes of aggregate per year. The wharf has been designed to berth 6,000-tonne ships; the jetty features an automated conveyor system that can operate at a rate of 500 tonnes per hour.

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Keep Kent Working!
It's jobs for Kent

Prince's Trust course for the young jobless

THE Prince's Trust is to run a new photography and animation course to help unemployed young people gain the skills and confidence they need to find work.

The course will be run in partnership with the South East Physics Network Team based at the University of Kent in Canterbury.

This comes as more than one-in-five young people in Kent are struggling to find a job.

The Trust is now looking for unemployed 16 to 25-year-olds from Kent to take part in its five-day Get Started with Photography and Animation programme running from February 6.

The free course will help young people with an interest in photography and art to develop confidence, motivation and teamwork skills to boost their chances of getting a job.

Participants will have the chance to create their own light drawings and animations by using a variation of photographic techniques.

All young people will receive mentoring support for three months after the course to help them find work or access further training.

Last year, more than three in four young people helped by the Prince's Trust moved into work, education or training.

A taster day for those interested in signing up to the course being held on Wednesday, February 1.

To apply for the course or for more information contact Harj Sangha on 07795166355 or text Animation to the same number.

Travel costs will be reimbursed and lunches provided for all young people taking part.

The Prince's Trust charity was founded in 1976 by Prince Charles to help young people across the UK.

It runs a range of training programmes, provide mentoring support and financial grants to build the confidence and motivation of disadvantaged young people.

Each year it works with 40,000 young people across the UK, with around 80 per cent moving on to employment, education, training or volunteering.

It gives practical and financial support, developing key workplace skills such as confidence and motivation.

It works with 13 to 30-year-olds who have struggled at school, have been in care, are long-term unemployed or have been in trouble with the law.

Last year, more than three in four young people helped by The Prince's Trust moved into work or training.

The Enterpise Programme is the scheme for which the Prince's Trust is best known and it helps young people start a business.

Young people can benefit from the programme if they are aged 18-30, are unemployed, or working less than 16 hours a week.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817136.

BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT: Prince Charles's charity works to help young people

College tasters for unemployed

NORTH West Kent College is offering unemployed people the chance to try out its vocational courses at Dartford and Gravesend in February.

Special taster days for people who are out of work are being offered in hairdressing and office skills at Dartford and Gravesend: and in professional cookery, engineering and construction at Gravesend only.

Engineering at Gravesend features on January 25, while construction and other subjects are featured throughout February.

Further information is available on the college's website at www.nwkcollege.ac.uk and the free places can be booked on 01322 629637.

Apprentices win building awards

TWO apprentices from Canterbury Cathedral have won awards at the annual Building Crafts College prize-giving.

Fourth year stonemasonry apprentice Sam Matthews won two awards, The Worshipful Company of Masons prize for Outstanding Effort, and what was referred to as the "college Oscar", the Sir Bannister Fletcher Prize for the College Student of the Year.

Jake Wood, a second year apprentice stonemason, was awarded the Avery Knight Trophy for Best Performing First Year Stonemasonry Student.

Heather Newton, head of stonemasonry and conservation at the cathedral said: "We are very fortunate here at Canterbury to have such talented and motivated young apprentices – it inspires confidence that the cathedral will be in safe hands for generations to come.

"It was a wonderful evening and both boys deserved their awards as they have worked very hard. They have also both participated in national SkillBuild competitions and Sam was awarded a silver medal – so it bodes well for the future."

The Canterbury Cathedral Apprenticeship Scheme offers apprenticeships in carpentry, electrical, gardening, plumbing, scaffolding and stonemasonry, and has recently introduced a chef apprenticeship in the Cathedral Lodge.

Apprenticeships
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Learn about teaching courses and qualifications available in Medway

AN open evening to find out about teaching qualifications will take place this week.

The informal event will be on Tuesday, January 17, at the Rochester Adult Education Centre/Community Hub from 5-7.30pm.

The open evening will be an opportunity for teachers, tutors and trainers both in the private and public sectors, to find out about the range of teaching qualifications and short courses, chat to tutors, and get advice and guidance on their own development needs.

The teacher training team of Medway Adult and Community Learning Service (MACLS) will be on hand to discuss options and answer questions.

Anyone who is currently teaching adults or who wishes to explore their options for adding another string to their bow has been encouraged to attend and meet the team.

On top of teaching qualification courses such as PTLLS and DTLLS, MACLS range of courses has expanded to include:assertiveness for teachers and trainers; developing your professional persona – using professional actors' techniques to develop and improve teaching delivery and presentation skills; the new Level 3 Assessor's Award (TAQA); and two day-intensive train-the-trainer.

No appointment is needed and for more information, email natasha.french@medway.gov.uk or call 01634 338476.

Chemistry students get teeth stuck into food project

FEELING THE HEAT: Chemistry student Miles Balderston works on his chilli pepper project

CHILLI pepper heat and the antibacterial properties of honey are among the fields being explored by scientists at MidKent College.

Students working towards the Higher National Diploma in applied chemistry are undertaking their own in-depth research projects, the likes of which are not usually carried out until the second year of university.

The strength of the projects will go a long way in determining the scientists' final HND score, which if high enough can be topped up into a full degree with further study at university.

Programme area leader for applied science, Eleanor Wood, said: "Most scientific discoveries are the result of years of study by lots of people investigating lots of different things, so you never really know what you're going to end up with. But fingers crossed we'll get some interesting results.

"Most of our students who go on to university have sailed through their degrees thanks to having already taken part in projects like this, with some even helping to teach Masters students."

Among the research projects being undertaken by the young chemists is one looking at the antibacterial properties of honey – in particular how much more effective the New Zealand-produced Manuka honey is compared to cheaper high street brands.

Meanwhile, 19-year-old Chatham resident Miles Balderston is attempting to devise a scientific scale for measuring the temperature of chilli peppers.

He said: "The most common scale used at the moment is the Scoville scale, which is completely unscientific because it relies on different people tasting the chilli peppers. The other way to test their temperature is to use a technique known as High-Performance Liquid Chromatography, but that's still not an exact science."

Computer school snaps up places on industrial placement programme

THE University of Kent's School of Computing is celebrating record numbers of students on its industrial placement programme.

Almost 100 students are on placement with a range of businesses – from global institutions to smaller specialist companies – in the UK and overseas.

The placements were secured following assessment and competition against students throughout the country.

"Last year, we had 59 Kent students on industrial placements," said Katie Van Sanden, one of the industrial placement co-ordinators in the school of computing.

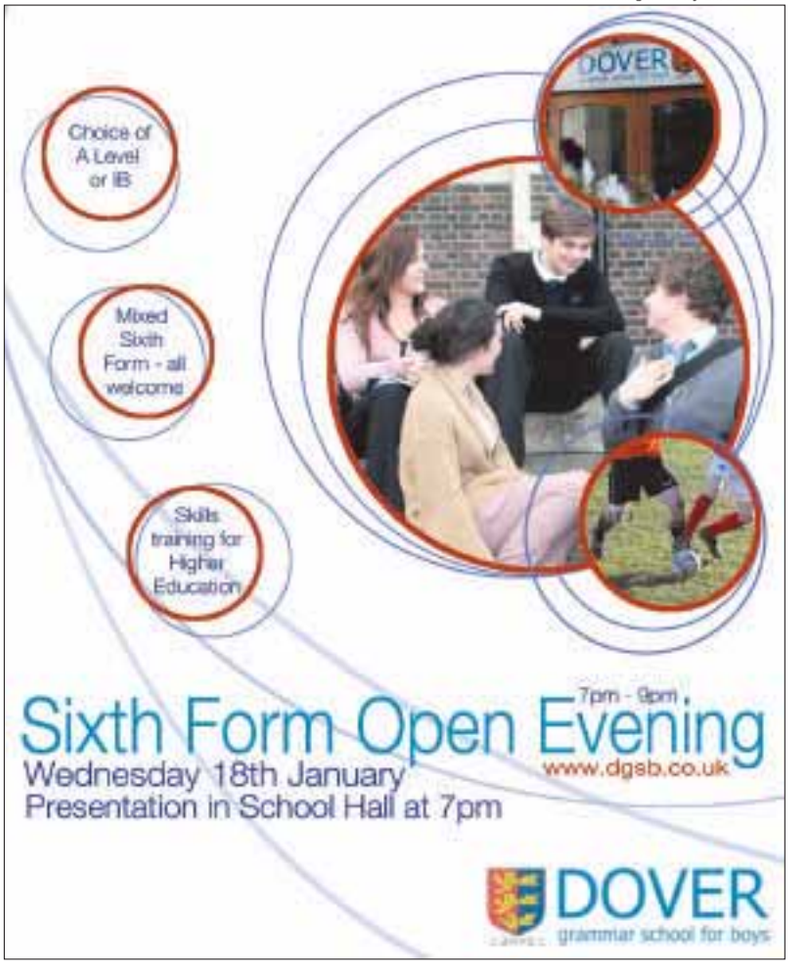
"This year, despite the tough economic climate, 96 students are working with organisations, from Disney, Microsoft, Accenture and IBM to creative design agencies and the 2012 Olympics Organising Committee.

"Now, more than ever, students need more than a degree to embark on a meaningful graduate career."

A particular success story is the Kent students working for Cisco Systems, the networking company, based in San Jose, California.

Cisco selected four students – Phil Styles, Zach Antonas, Sergios Charalambous and Paul Wozniak – to spend a year working on cutting-edge technology in Silicon Valley.

Next year, the number of students at Cisco is likely to be at least double.



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To arrange an informal visit and application please contact: Brendan O'Connor, Clinical Manager. Tel 01304 821331

THE SPENCER WING

The Spencer Wing is an independently owned and managed private hospital. We have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford and a 22 bed unit situated on the QEQM Hospital site. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Physiotherapy Manager

Full time

To manage our Physiotherapy Department and maintain clinical skills with our in-patient and out-patient activity, primarily at Margate but across both sites.
Six or more years post graduate experience and previous management experience preferred.

Closing date for applications 20th January 2012

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact
Lynn Orrin, Hospital Manager - 01843 234554

For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing, QEQM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

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SOVA serco EUROPEAN UNION

SOVA is a leading national volunteer mentoring organisation working with those socially and economically disadvantaged in England and Wales.

Serco Job Deal is an initiative designed to support offenders back into work by improving their employment prospects and tackling barriers to employment. SOVA is currently expanding this service within East Kent and now requires a Case Manager to implement this service.

Case Manager Ref: CMEK01

Hours: 35 per week (F/T)
Starting Salary: pt 25 (range 25-35) £21,421
Base: East Kent (Canterbury, Folkestone and Thanet)

The main purpose of this post is to work closely with Probation Service to provide case management to community payback participants referred to Serco Job Deal (Kent). The post holder will be required to implement this service and have the skills to set up and maintain strong relationships with both clients and partners/funders and other external stakeholders, in order to achieve targets.

For an application form and further details visit the SOVA website at
www.sova.org.uk
Or contact
SOVA Recruitment
Unit 201 Lincoln House
1-3 Brixton Road
London SW9 6DE
Telephone: **020 7793 5867** Email: **sa@sova.org.uk**
Clearly stating the post reference

Closing date: 31 January 2012 at 5pm.
Interview date: 17 February 2012

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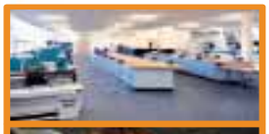

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* Do you enjoy supporting young people and gain satisfaction from seeing them learn?
* Are you proficient in the use of workshop machinery in a school environment?
* Are you familiar with the Health & Safety requirements of a workshop?
* Are you versatile, a quick learner and do you have good IT skills?

If you feel that you can answer '*Yes*' to all of the above, Northfleet Technology College is the place for you!

NTC has recently undergone a Support Staff re-structure and as a result, a Full Time vacancy has arisen for a DT and Engineering Technician.

The working hours of 37 hours per week is Term Time, plus 74 additional hours which can be agreed with the Headteacher and in line with school requirements.

Appointment will be subject to satisfactory safeguarding & vetting checks including references & a Fully Enhanced CRB.

Please contact the School Office if you would like further information on how to apply for this position.

Closing date: Friday 27 January 2012

Further details are available from Miss E Stuart
Email: office@ntc.kent.sch.uk
Web: www.ntc.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01474 533802
Head: Jane Partridge

MTS Cleansing Services Ltd

Requires Class 1 & 2 Tanker Driver operators at their Rochester Depot.

Duties include the collection and disposal of controlled waste at registered waste reception sites, attending emergency call out situations and dealing with sewer blockage emergencies. We operate an emergency call out rota which includes weekend working and unsociable hours so applicants need to be flexible.

Operating mainly in the South East, you will be required to complete a 50 hour working week any five days from seven. A competitive salary is offered along with overtime and night out premiums.

For an application pack and further details please telephone **01634 257143** and ask for a member of the HR Team or
Email: terry.crust@mtscleansing.co.uk

London Care

Passion for Independence, Respect for Choice

Care Workers

ROCHESTER, GILLINGHAM, STROOD, WALDERSLADE, TWYDALL, LORDSWOOD

- Competitive rates of pay
- Flexible working hours
- Weekend and morning hours available
- Free training to HSC Level 2 Diploma
- 28 days' paid annual leave (pro rata)
- No previous experience necessary
- Good written and spoken English

London Care is a leading provider of care support services to vulnerable older people and children with disabilities living in their own homes.

For an application form contact the central recruitment team on 0208 795 6555 or e-mail: recruitment@londoncare.co.uk

London Care is an Equal Opportunities Employer

www.londoncare.co.uk

KENT DEFENCE — CASEWORKER

Expanding firm of criminal defence lawyers seek a case worker to help in the preparation of Crown Court cases at our Margate Office. The successful candidate will need to hold a clean driving licence.

Previous experience of working in a legal aid practice is required.

Please send your CV and covering letter to
Sarah Sutherland, 170 Northdown Road, Cliftonville, Kent, CT9 2QT

or via email **sarahs@kentdefence.co.uk**

Closing date 30th January. No agencies please.

Market Research Interviewers

Earn £53.65-£71.25 for a 6 hour working day with travel allowance and holiday pay.

Interviewing people in their own homes after 12.30pm, working a minimum 3 days per week, no previous experience – full training given. No selling. Good standard of English required. You must have your own land line and/or broadband and your own transport. To apply call the number below, quoting ref: 6965ZZ

Call 020 8433 4490
www.kantaroperations.com

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We are an equal opportunities employer.

Fill your job vacancies fast

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It's jobs for Kent

The future of local media

Be part of an exciting and growing team working for the largest community media company in the UK with all its associated benefits

Digital & Business Development Manager

Archant KOS Media is looking to recruit an experienced commercial person who has a strong background of business development preferably in the online arena.

This person will be used to putting together Powerpoint presentations to key accounts and must be able to work with the minimum of supervision.

On occasions the successful applicant will go out on joint presentations with other sales account managers to present bespoke solutions for their clients through our various online services.

This is a key position and will report directly to the Ad Director and work very closely with the Field Sales Manager for Kent.

This person will need to build and develop relationships across all of Kent and will support the commercial management team in it's long term goals.

You will also be required to work on occasions from our Ashford based offices but it is envisaged that in the main, it will be working in the field.

The position offers an excellent salary package and generous bonus scheme with company car, as well as ongoing training and career development plus 5 weeks annual leave, contributory pension scheme and life assurance.

A full driving licence is essential.

Account Manager Field Based (x2)

Archant KOS Media are looking to recruit highly driven, confident, self motivated team players to work on our portfolio of products which consist of newspapers, magazines and digital platforms, you will need to be able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets.

Working with an existing client base where customer service is paramount, you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities. You will be building long lasting relationships with organisations throughout Kent.

Ideally you will be from a sales or marketing background and have the drive, tenacity and determination to succeed. Basic knowledge of computer systems is required.

We offer a company car, excellent basic salary plus a generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation. A full driving licence is essential.

Kent on Saturday · Kent on Sunday · Your Tunbridge Wells · Your Medway · Your Swale
yourashford · yourcanterbury · yourdeal · yourdover
yourmaidstone · yoursandwich · yourshepway · yourthanet

Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:

Dawn Coady
Group Recruitment Manager, Prospect House
Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE
or email dawn.coady@archant.co.uk

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

To advertise in this section

01303 817040

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BENNETT
Alfie Beau born on 16th December 2011, weighing 6 lbs 1 oz. Son to Tony and Louise Bennett in Minster Thanet

BUCKEL
Natalya and Keith Buckel of Maidstone celebrate the birth of their daughter Ruby Mae on the 25th December 2011, weighing 7lb and 6oz.

RAI
Shanvi Rai born on 20th December 2011, weighing 2390grams at 12.24am to proud parents Roshani and Upendra of Maidstone.
DEATHS

DEATHS

HARTUNG
Franklyn George Hartung reunited with Doreen on 4th January 2012, much loved and greatly missed by his children, grandchildren, family and friends. Please contact Birds Family Funeral Directors with regards to funeral arrangements.01622 749616. All very welcome.

Sell your car free online

Visit **CarsforKent.co.uk** and sell your car on Kent's leading motoring website

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Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: www.jobs24.co.uk/kent

KOSMEDIA | Telephone: 01303 817040 | Fax: 01303 817004 | Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk | Online: www.jobs24.co.uk/kent

PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Westlands Academies Trust

Westlands School
PART TIME CATERING ASSISTANT

To work in a busy school kitchen
Required to cover Maternity Leave
20 hours per week - 39 weeks per year
Hourly rate: £6.68 - £7.30

Food preparation/cooking experience and a basic food hygiene certificate preferred, but if you have a positive attitude, good practical skills and are willing to work, we will teach you.

Recruitment packs are available from the school or online.

Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.

Closing date: Wednesday 18 January 2012

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF
www.westlands.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461
Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Westlands Academies Trust Company No 7344732

DOVERCOLLEGE

ADMISSIONS REGISTRAR REQUIRED

Full time with some Saturdays.
NOT term-time only.

Dover College is the leading local private day and boarding school for children aged 3 to 18.

The successful candidate will combine outstanding people skills with experience of sales/marketing with a keen eye for detail who is comfortable working in a busy office with an international and local customer base.

Remuneration is dependent on skills and experience.

To apply, please contact Yvonne Sadler on 01304 205969 or by email: admin@dovercollege.org.uk

Closing Date: Monday 16th January

Interviews: week commencing 23rd January

Dover College is an equal opportunity employer. Dover College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and the selected individual will be subject to Criminal Records Bureau checks at the enhanced level, in accordance with Child Protection legislation.

RECRUITMENT SENSE

where service, safety and savings come as standard

teachers from only £155 +VAT

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THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

TRAINER ASSESSOR
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

37 hours per week, all year

Benefits include:
Final salary contributory pension and 26 days paid holiday.

To train and assess learners in the workplace to achieve Diploma's and Apprenticeship Programmes in a wide variety of environments of Health and Social Care.

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please telephone our application line an (01843) 605052

Closing date for the post: 23rd January 2012
Interview Date: 27th January 2012

Promoting Equality
Preventing Discrimination

THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

'EARN AS YOU LEARN'
ADVANCED CHEF APPRENTICESHIPS

FIXED TERM FOR ONE YEAR

Salary scale: £111 per week for 37 hours per week

Thanet College is delighted to offer exciting opportunities to 'earn as you learn' through 2 Apprenticeship posts working in the college's highly regarded Catering department.

The successful candidates will be required to assist in the day to day running of the College Restaurant/Refectory/Pastry Kitchens and to assist and supervise students in all aspects of Kitchen/Pastry work.

The programme will result in a Level 3 qualification providing an excellent gateway into the world of employment for 16 to 18 year olds. You therefore must already have a Level 2 qualification in Food Preparation and Production.

Additional Benefits include:
A netbook to support your studies
A Trilogy Salon voucher to the value of £20
A clothing allowance, if applicable, for specific work wear
A daily meal voucher for the College Food Court

Closing Date for applications: 18 January 2012

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please telephone our application line on (01843) 605052

We value the diversity of our workforce and welcome applications from all sectors of the community

Promoting Equality
Preventing Discrimination

To advertise in this section 01303 817040

THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancy available:

SKILLS PRACTITIONER - ENGINEERING

37 hours per week, 38 weeks worked a year

Salary: £13,941 - £16,474

Benefits include:
Final salary contributory pension and 23 days paid holiday.

To provide Learning/Technical support to staff and students within the Division and to undertake assessment and quality assurance duties as required by the College and awarding bodies.

Closing date: 18 January 2012

Interview Date: 24 January 2012

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Promoting Equality

Preventing Discrimination

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE | Bronze

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//11/01659/FUL: Land rear of 40 School Lane, Blean, CT2 9JA Erection of single-storey dwelling with associated parking. **Applicant: Mr Abbott** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01922/VAR: Former Huyck Factory, Millstrood Road South, Whitstable Variation of condition 04 of appeal APP/J2210/A/08/2079694/NWF (planning permission CA/07/01471/WHI) that the development shall provide no more than 219 dwellings which shall be laid out in accordance with the scale shown on drawing 2418:001a dated 26.01.09. (Revised scheme). **Applicant: Weston Homes Plc** Reason: Major development.
CA//11/01930/ADV: William Street Surgery, 67 William Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5NR Non-illuminated signage. **Applicant: William Street Surgery** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/02024/FUL: 46 Spenser Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5QN Replacement windows. **Applicant: Mrs Peters** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/02062/FUL: Upper Garrington, Garrington, Ickham, CT3 1XG Installation of ground mounted solar photovoltaic array. **Applicant: Mr Spencer** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/02071/FUL: Knaves Ash Cottage, Hoath Road, Hoath, CT3 4JR Erection of detached building for use as self-contained annexe. **Applicant: Mr J Williams** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/02074/FUL: 9 Douglas Road, Herne Bay, CT6 6AE Remove two chimney stacks. **Applicant: Mr Robinson** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/02099/FUL: 62-64 New Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3EL Demolition of 62 and 64 New Dover Road and development of a 93 bedroom sixth form residential accommodation with associated ancillary rooms and parking. **Applicant: Greenham Properties** Reason: Major development.
CA//11/02100/CAC: 62-64 New Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3EL Demolition of 62 and 64 New Dover Road. **Applicant: Greenham Properties** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA//11/02108/LB: The Thatched Barn, Catt's Wood Road, Lower Hardres, CT4 5PG Porch to front of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Blatchford** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//11/02112/FUL: 177 Old Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3EP Change of use from house in multiple occupation to student halls of residence for CATS College Canterbury and extension to basement/ground floor to provide a covered entrance hall. (Retrospective application). **Applicant: CATS College** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/02117/FUL: Bartonlea Cottage, London Road, Harbledown, CT2 9AX Conversion of detached outbuilding (home office) into bed and breakfast accommodation including single-storey extension and associated external alterations. **Applicant: Mr S Andrews** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/02125/FUL: 165 Island Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1EE Two-storey rear extension to dwelling. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs G Mecklenburgh** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/02133/FUL: 5-7 Whitefriars Street, Canterbury, CT1 2TA Alterations to shopfront. **Applicant: H&M Hennes Mauritz UK Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/02137/FUL: St Mildreds Tannery, Rheims Way, Canterbury Application for a new planning permission to replace planning permission CA/09/00215/FUL for rebuilding of buildings 13 and 14 (former drying shed and adjoining brick building) to provide three houses, one flat and a single dwelling in building 14 in order to extend the time limit for implementation. **Applicant: Cloudy Bay (GB) Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/02143/FUL: Littlebourne House, 2 High Street, Littlebourne Extensions and alterations to provide additional bedrooms and facilities. **Applicant: Mr Mike Morland** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/02147/FUL: 1 Great Pett Oast, Pett Hill, Bridge, CT4 5AN Single-storey rear extension. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Shirley** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/02158/FUL: Three Horseshoes, Hardres Court Road, Lower Hardres, CT4 5NZ Replacement dormer and balcony to rear roof slope and erection of single-storey extension, shed and car port to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Forbes** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/02203/LB: Littlebourne House, 2 High Street, Littlebourne Extensions and alterations to provide additional bedrooms and facilities. **Applicant: Mr Mike Morland** Reason: Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.control@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 6 February 2012**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 13 January 2012

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The London Golf Club, Stansted Lane, Ash, Brands Hatch**
Applicant: **Simon Russell**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Honnington Farm, Vauxhall Lane, Southborough**
Applicant: **Angela Bowie**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Richard Phillips at Chapel Down, Smallhythe Road, Tenterden**
Applicant: **Gary Beach**
Name of Premises: **Willesborough Windmill, Mill Lane, Ashford**
Applicant: **Patricia White**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Blazing Donkey, Hay Hill, Ham, Near Deal**
Applicant: **Richard Martin**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Lost Village of Dode, Wrangling Lane, Great Buckland, Luddesdown**
Applicant: **Douglas Chapman**

The Applicant has requested that on renewal of the licence the current restriction of 42 ceremonies a year, and the days on which ceremonies can be performed is changed to unrestricted. All other special conditions on the licence will remain unchanged.

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below .

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

BRITTAIN & HOBBS T.V. & ELECTRICAL LIMITED
(Company Number 04442822)
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above-named Company will be held at St George Hotel, 7-8 New Road Avenue, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6BB, on 23 January 2012, at 12.00 noon for the purposes of the nomination of a Liquidator and the appointment of a Liquidation Committee. Proxy forms to be used for the purposes of the above meeting must be lodged, accompanied by a proof of debt form, at Montague Place, Quayside, Chatham Maritime, Chatham, ME4 4QU not later than 12.00 noon on the business day prior to the date of the meeting. Notice is also hereby given that Andrew Tate and Maxine Reid of Reeves & Co LLP, Montague Place, Quayside, Chatham Maritime, Chatham, ME4 4QU, are qualified to act as Insolvency Practitioners in relation to the above Company, and will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
Further details contact: Andrew Tate (IP No. 8960), Email: restructuring@reeves.co Tel: 01634 899800
Dated 11 January 2012
Ronald William Brittain, Director

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on

01303 817044

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS

NOTICE OF THE EXTENSION OF AN ORDER TEMPORARILY CLOSING PUBLIC FOOTPATH SR3A IN THE PARISH OF SHOREHAM

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH SR3A)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

The Secretary of State for Transport has directed that the Order made by Kent County Council on the 1st July 2011 the effect of which was to prohibit all traffic from Public Footpath SR3A has been extended until 1st May 2012 or until the completion of the works whichever is the earlier.

The path is closed from Well Hill Lane to the stile at the junction with Public Footpath SR3B (NGR TQ 500 635) to the north of Westwood Farm, a distance of approximately 550 metres.

An alternative route is available and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact N Biddall

PROW - DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY

NOTICE OF THE EXTENSION OF AN ORDER TEMPORARILY CLOSING PUBLIC FOOTPATH HL9 (PART) IN THE PARISH OF LYDD

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH HL9 (PART)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

The Secretary of State for Transport has directed that the Order made by Kent County Council on the 1st August 2011, the effect of which was to prohibit all traffic from Public Footpath HL9 (part) has been extended until 1 August 2012 or until the completion of the works whichever is the earlier.

The path is closed from Dungeness Road and the junction with Public Footpath HL8 (NGR TR 070 201).

The alternative route is via Dungeness Road, Kerton Road and Public Footpath HL8. Please note that access to the RSPB bird observation hide to the north east of Dungeness Road, adjacent to Public Footpath HL9, will remain open.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Edward Denne

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 15th January 2012**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

ASHFORD ROAD, HAMSTREET (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of essential bridge repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ashford Road, Hamstreet, from Saturday 4 February 2012 at 00.05 hours until Monday 6 February 2012 at 05.00 hours, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge, with no access through the village.

The alternative route is via Ashford Road, A2070 Hamstreet By-pass, Marsh Road and The Street.

CRANBROOK ROAD, BIDDENDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to carry out a new water connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cranbrook Road, Biddenden, on or after 16 January 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed to the west of the junction with Mockbeggar Lane.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Chapel Lane and Mockbeggar Lane.

The alternative route is via Chapel Lane, A262 Sissinghurst Road, Tenterden Road, Benenden Road and Cranbrook Road.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984 (ZEBRA CROSSING - SCHOOL, ROAD, HOTHFIELD, ASHFORD)

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council, as local traffic authority, and after consultation with the chief officer of police, propose to establish a crossing (Zebra) for pedestrians under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all their enabling powers, as follows:

SCHOOL ROAD, HOTHFIELD
Adjacent to 20 School Road, Hothfield

Dated 15 January 2012

Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager
Kent County Council Highways

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

HAM SHADES LANE, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works requiring underground access to provide a new phone service, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ham Shades Lane, Whitstable, on or after 31 January 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of 52 and 54 Ham Shades Lane.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Oakwood Drive and Foxgrove Road.

The alternative route is via Church Street, A2990 (Old) Thanet Way and Foxgrove Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, WINCHEAP, CANTERBURY) (7.5T WEIGHT LIMIT) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections, 1, 2(4) and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order will have the following effect:-

HOLLOW LANE, HOLLOWMEDE, ELHAM ROAD, COGANS TERRACE CANTERBURY	Prohibition of any goods vehicle with a maximum gross weight capable of exceeding 7.5 tonnes to proceed in Hollow Lane from the junction with Wincheap (A28) to the junction with Homersham or in Hollowmede, Elham Road, or Cogans Terrace, Canterbury, except for loading.

Prohibition of any goods vehicle with a maximum gross weight capable of exceeding 7.5 tonnes to proceed in Hollow Lane from the junction with Wincheap (A28) to the junction with Homersham or in Hollowmede, Elham Road, or Cogans Terrace, Canterbury, except for loading.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ, and at Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW.

If you wish to offer support for, or object to, the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to:

The Traffic Management Team, 1st Floor Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX.

Or by email to td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk
By 12 noon on Monday 13th February 2012.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

MANOR ROAD, SWANSCOMBE- (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 A S AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Manor Road, Swanscombe between Swanscombe Street, Betsham Road and Rectory Road.

The Order will become effective on 30th January 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 3 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Gunn Road and Rectory Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Gas main replacement works

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

LIVERPOOL ROAD, WALMER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to repair a damaged sewer, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Liverpool Road, Walmer, on or after 16 January 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Cambridge Road and Grove Road.

The alternative route is via Cambridge Road, A258 Dover Road and Liverpool Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CHURCH ROAD, OTHAM) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Church Road outside of "Little Squerryes" on or after Monday 16th January 2012 for a period of up to 10 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Deringwood Drive, Willington Street, A274 Sutton Road, Gore Court Road.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install two washout hydrants on the existing mains. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Ruth Epps on 01634 276169.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

CANADA FARM ROAD, SOUTH DARENTH (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Canada Farm Road, South Darenth between Three Gates Road and Rabbits Road.

The Order will become effective on 16th January 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 30th January 2012 and will 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Scudders Hill, Valley Road, Fawkham Road Fawkham, Main Road Longfield, Green Street Green Road Londfield, Canada Farm Road Longfield, Canada Farm Road South Darenth.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate drainage works.

COMPASSES HILL LEIGH - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Compasses Hill from

Camp Hill to B2027 Penshurst Road Leigh.

The Order will become effective on 15th January 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 16th January 2012 and will last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: approaching from the East, West along B2027 Penshurst Road, North and East along Camp Hill.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching.

PROSPECT ROAD SEVENOAKS - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Prospect Road Junction Quakers Hall Lane, Sevenoaks.

The Order will become effective on 15th January 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 16th January 2012 and will last 2

weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Quakers Hall Lane, Cobden Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate gas mains replacement.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

THE CRESCENT & WILBERFORCE ROAD, SANDGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of sewer repair works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Crescent & Wilberforce Road, Sandgate, as shown below.

THE CRESCENT will be closed to through traffic in the vicinity of numbers 30 to 37, from 30 January 2012 for up to one week.

The One-way Traffic Orders will be suspended in respect of The Crescent, and Wilberforce Road from the eastern junction with Sandgate Road to the junction with The Crescent, to allow access.

The alternative routes are either via The Crescent, or via Wilberforce Road and The Crescent.

WILBERFORCE ROAD will be closed in the vicinity of Southover Court, from 6 February 2012 for up to 1 day.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Wilberforce Road will be suspended between the junctions with The Crescent and Hill Side to allow access up to the point of closure from either direction.

The alternative route is via The Crescent and A259 Sandgate High Street or via the west section of Wilberforce Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, NEW ROMNEY) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3 (2), 4 (1) and (2), 32 (1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby make the following Order:-

1. The Order "THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (Various Roads, New Romney) (Waiting Restriction and Street Parking Places) Order 2012" will introduce a no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following lengths of road in New Romney.

LITTLESTONE ROAD - NEW ROMNEY

(i) Littlestone Road - From a point 20 metres east of its junction with Station Approach to a point 10 metres south of its junction with Station Approach.

STATION APPROACH - NEW ROMNEY

(ii) Station Approach - On the western side to a point 10 metres south of its junction with Littlestone Road.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone ME14 1XQ,

between 8.30am and 5.00pm and at Shepway District Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, during normal opening times.

Anyone wishing to support the new proposal or object to the proposed Order should send the grounds in writing

to: The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 13th February 2012.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

STONE LEVEL CROSSING, BUCKLAND (SWALE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace rails, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stone Level Crossing, Buckland, on or after 22 January 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The planned closure times are from Sunday 22 January 2012 at 1.50 am until Monday 23 January 2012 at 4.10 am.

Lower Road will be closed at Stone Level Crossing.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Buckland Farm Road and Elverton Lane.

The alternative route is via Lower Road, Lower Norton Lane, A2 London Road, Four Oaks Road and Lower Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, SWALE (JANUARY 2012) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Swale, on or after 30 January 2012 as shown below.

CHAUCER ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE will be closed at the east junction with Homewood Avenue on or after 30 January 2012 for up to 1 day.

Access remains available from the west junction with Homewood Avenue.

PETTFIELD HILL ROAD, THROWLEY will be closed beween the junctions with Old Hockley Road and Church Road, on or after 31 January 2012 for up to 1 day.

The alternative route is via Old Hockley Road and Church Road.

MOUNT LANE, HARTLIP will be closed between the junctions with Lower Hartlip Road and The Street, on or after 1 February 2012 for up to 1 day.

The alternative route is via Lower Hartlip Road, Hollow Lane and The Street.

The planned closure times are between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm, with the roads re-opened outside these times.

PRESTON STREET, FAVERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to a wastewater pipe, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Preston Street, Faversham , on or after 23 January 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

The road will be closed to the south of the junction with Market Street / East Street.

The alternative route is via East Street, B2041 Newton Road, Station Road and Preston Street.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Preston Street will be temporarily suspended from the junction with Stone Street to allow access up to the point of closure.

WILDMARSH ROAD, LUDDENHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of cable replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Wildmarsh Road, Luddenham, Faversham on or after 24 January 2012 for up to 3 days, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Lily Cottage.

The alternative route is via Elverton Lane, Lower Road, (Bysing Wood Road) and Luddenham Hill.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

CHURCH ROAD, BROADSTAIRS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to re-lay an electrical cable to cure local faults, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Road, Broadstairs, on or after 23 January 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Nelson Place.

The alternative route is via B2052 Nelson Place, Rectory Road and Shutler Road.

LOMBARD STREET & MARKET STREET, MARGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lombard Street & Market Street, Margate, on or after 31 January 2012 for up to 10 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The roads will be closed in phases working between the junctions with Hawley Street and The Parade.

The overall alternative route for all 3 phases is via The Parade, Fort Hill, Fort Crescent, Trinity Square, Trinity Hill and Hawley Street.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of New Cross Street will be reversed for all 3 phases, for the duration of these works.

The phases are as follows

PHASE 1 - LOMBARD STREET will be closed between the junctions with Hawley Street and New Cross Street.

The alternative route is via Market Street, New Cross Street and New Street

PHASE 2 - LOMBARD STREET / MARKET STREET will be closed between the junction with New Cross Street and the entrance to Market Street car park.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Lombard Street will be reversed between the junctions with Hawley Street and New Cross Street.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Market Street will be suspended between the entrance to the car park and the junction with High Street.

PHASE 3 - MARKET STREET will be closed between the entrance to the car park and the junction with High Street

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Lombard Street will be reversed between the junctions with Hawley Street and New Cross Street.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Lombard Street / Market Street (Market Place) will be suspended between the junction with New Cross Street and the entrance to the car park, to allow access.

The duration of the phases is subject to weather and ground conditions. The exact dates will be locally advised and signposted on site.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, THANET)
(SPEED LIMITS)
ORDER 2012 ROAD

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers proposes to make an Order under Sections 1(1), 2(1) and 2(2), Sections 81 to 84 of and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, the effect of which will introduce reduced speed limits to be enforced on the lengths of roads approaching and including the roundabout junctions and link road between them in the area commonly known as "Lord of the Manor".

Phase 1 of East Kent Access was constructed and opened several years ago and Phase 2 included the construction of the A299 Hengist Way, from "Minster roundabout", eastwards to "Cliffsend roundabout", southwards to "Sevenscore roundabout" and eastwards to "Lord of the Manor junction"; and the A256 Richborough Way from "Sevenscore roundabout", southwards to "Ebbsfleet roundabout" and A256 Ramsgate Road, from "Ebbsfleet roundabout," southwards to "Richborough roundabout".

This section of works will reduce the speed limit on the approaches to the "Lord of the Manor" roundabouts, the circulatory carriageways and the link road between them, to 30 mph. These areas are currently street lit so only terminal signs for the limits are required.

The length of the existing 40 mph speed limit on the A299 Canterbury Road East will be extended in a westerly direction from its current boundary adjacent to its junction with Windermere Avenue, to meet the 30 mph limit which will terminate 70 metres east of the mid point of its southern roundabout junction with "Lord of the Manor".

Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd has been commissioned to work in partnership with the Kent County Council to progress the legal procedures necessary to implement the proposed measures.

A copy of the scheme proposal, an explanatory statement and a plan showing the extents of the scheme can be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ, Thanet District Council Offices, PO Box 9, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent, CT9 1XZ, and affected Parish and Town Councils which are: Birchington and Villages PC, Cliffsend PC, Manston PC and Ramsgate TC.

Anyone wishing to support these proposals, or object to them, should write to Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB, quoting the name of the Order and reference No "B1425100" and stating their reasons, by no later than Monday 6th February 2012.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A26 VAUXHALL LANE, TONBRIDGE)
(40MPH SPEED RESTRICTION)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because of the likelihood of danger to the public using a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic traveling at any speed greater than 40mph on A26 Vauxhall Lane from A26 Pembury Road to A21 northbound slip road on or after Monday 30th January 2012 between 19:00hrs and 07:00hrs for a period of up to 10 working nights or until such works are completed.

Balfour Beatty Mott MacDonald apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for resurfacing works. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Yan Wei on 0203 433 2101.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(COACH ROAD, IGHTHAM)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Coach Road Ightham between Sandy Lane and Pine tree Lane on or after Monday 16th January 2012 when required for a period of up to 2 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Ismay Road, Back Lane and Sandy Lane.

Kent Highways Services apologise for any inconvenience caused but it is necessary for work to be carried out to install new gullys frames and covers. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Alastair Coleman on 07500080065.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HALE STREET, EAST PECKHAM)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC TURNING LEFT)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic from turning left into Seven Mile Lane from Hale Street on or after Thursday 2nd February 2012 for a period of up to 2 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via B2015 Maidstone Road to the roundabout and return.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to gain access to an underground structure to provide a new service. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Rachel Cross of A Plant Lux Traffic Controls on 0370 0500792.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HIGH STREET AND ROCHESTER ROAD, AYLESFORD)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND PARKING RESTRICTION)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on High Street at the junction with Forstal Road/ Rochester Road and prohibiting parking on Rochester Road from junction of the High Street to the junction of Powell Close. This order will commence on or after Monday 30th January 2012 and be in place when required for a period of up to 8 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via High Street, Bull Lane, Pilgrims Way, Rochester and Vice Versa.

Kent County Council apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential drainage works. Should you require any further information the contacts for the scheme are Kevin Gore or Jamie Finch on 08458 247800.

HIGHWAYS - District of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A26 ST JOHN'S ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS)
(SUSPENSION OF BUS LANE)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order to suspend the bus lane on A26 St John's Road between Woodbury Park Road and the roundabout on or after Monday 16th January 2012 when required for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are complete.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a new water supply. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Amelia Fauklin of Clancy Docwra on 01634 873084.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(GIBBETT LANE, HORSMONDEN)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Gibbett Lane outside of number 2 on or after Monday 16th January 2012 for a period of up to 10 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via B2162 Maidstone Road, Brenchley Road, Furnace Lane, Gibbett Lane.

UK Power Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to provide a new service. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Derek Petts of TMS Traffic Management Company Limited on 01622 632519.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, CAPEL, TUNBRIDGE WELLS)
(SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 82 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce various speed limits on the following road or lengths of road;

Schedule 1

Restricted Roads

B2017 Five Oak Green Road	Between a point 160 metres southeast of it junction with Falmouth Place to a point 65 metres west of its junction with Church Lane.

Schedule 2

40 Miles Per Hour Speed Limit

B2017 Badsell Road	Between a point 160 metres southeast of its junction with Falmouth Place and a point 85 metres northwest of its junction with A228 Maidstone Road.
A228 Colts Hill	Between a point 500 metres southwest of it junction with Alders Road to a point 670 metres northeast of that junction.

Schedule 3

50 Miles Per Hour Speed Limit

B2017 Five Oak Green Road	From its junction with A26 Woodgate Way to a point 315 metres west of its junction with Hartlake Road.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone ME14 1XQ, between 8.30am and 5.00pm and at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Offices, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent during normal opening times.

Anyone wishing to support the new proposal or object to the proposed Order should send the grounds in writing to: The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 13 February 2012.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 15th January 2012

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

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Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

11/03780/FUL **Moat Bungalow Cranbrook Road, Benenden**
- Demolition of existing bungalow and replace with a dwelling and detached garage (PROW) (LB)

11/03854/LBC **School House High Street, Bidborough**
- Listed Building Consent: Refurbishment of store room (LB)

11/03795/FUL **St Luke's Church Maidstone Road, Brenchley**
- Double glazed doors to the existing outer arched opening of the north porch (LB)

11/03785/FUL **Linden Park Cricket Club Fir Tree Road, Broadwater**
- Additional use of cricket pavilion as a nursery Monday to Friday during academic year TW/09/02884/FUL - Removal of condition 1, Permission granted for a limited time period (CA)

11/03689/HOUSE **Freshfields Five Oak Green Road, Capel**
- Granny annexe at rear of main dwelling (LB)

11/03815/LBC **The Granary Restaurant Sissinghurst Castle, Cranbrook and Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent: 2no boiler flues to rear roof slope (LB)

11/03830/HOUSE **Walnut Trees Chapel Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Demolition of existing outbuilding and replacement with oak framed outbuilding (LB) (CA)

11/03754/FUL **Flat 3 4 Molyneux Park Road, Culverden**
- Window to front elevation and rooflight to north west facing roof slope to same room (CA)

11/03860/FUL **7 Vale Avenue Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Change of use of offices to physiotherapy/sports clinic (LB) (CA)

11/03859/HOUSE **2 Mount Pleasant Talbot Road, Hawkhurst**
- Single storey first floor rear extension and porch to front elevation (CA)

11/03844/FUL **47A High Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Change of use and conversion of upper floors to 1 x 1 bed maisonette and 3 x 1 bed flats (CA)

11/03865/HOUSE **7 South Grove Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Loft conversion with rooflights to side and rear; extension of rear patio area and installation of folding glazed doors (CA)

11/03857/FUL **Corner Of Sandrock Road And Pembury Road, Park**
- A 15m high pole, 2no shared equipment cabinet, 1no slimline meter cabinet and development ancillary thereto (CA)

11/03851/FULMJ **32 High Street Pembury, Pembury**
- Change of use from flats (C3) to accommodation for junior doctors and nurses (Sui Generis) with accompanying development including external 1st floor fire escape stairs (CA) (LB)

11/03763/FUL **Sandhurst Service Station Back Road, Sandhurst**
- Replacement of shop windows and relocation of front entrance (part retrospective) (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 14 January 2012

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/11/1888/S - LINTON PARK, HEATH ROAD, LINTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4AB - An application for listed building consent for the installation of metal railings along Heath Road and Linton Road boundaries. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1889/S - LINTON PARK, HEATH ROAD, LINTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4AB - Installation of metal railings along Heath Road and Linton Road boundaries. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1921/N - JUDGE HOUSE FARM, WOODCOCK LANE, BOUGHTON MALHERBE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2AY - Erection of a three bay, two storey agricultural store to be used for storage and parking. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1933/S - WIERTON HILL FARM, WIERTON HILL, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4JT - Construction of detached steel frame agricultural building with solar panel roof over. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1935/S - MEREWORTH HOUSE, LADDINGFORD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6BU - An application for listed building consent for the erection of a two storey rear extension, including demolition of existing rear wall. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/2039/N - THE HAYLOFT, OLD SHELVE, ASHFORD ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2DT - Demolition of existing disused milking parlour and construction of a new bungalow for use ancillary to the use of 'The Hayloft'. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/2056/S - THE BARN, HEADCORN ROAD, GRAFTY GREEN, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2AP - Listed Building Consent for reinstatement of fire damage to timber-framed building (dwelling). **Reason: 3**

MA/11/2110/N - TRAVIS PERKINS TRADING CO LTD, COBTREE HOUSE, FORSTAL ROAD, AYLESFORD, KENT, ME20 7AG - Outline application for the erection of a building for B1, B2, B8 and or vehicluar showroom use with access to be considered at this time and all other matters reserved for future consideration. **Reason: 6**

MA/11/2111/N - TRAVIS PERKINS TRADING CO LTD, COBTREE HOUSE, FORSTAL ROAD, AYLESFORD, KENT, ME20 7AG - Demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment to provide a new builders merchant, trade counter (B1c, B2, B8) units along with vehicular storage, access, service road and parking. **Reason: 6**

MA/11/2136/S - SUTTON VALENCE SCHOOL, NORTH STREET, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3HT - Reconstruction of ragstone retaining wall. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/2137/S - SUTTON VALENCE SCHOOL, NORTH STREET, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3HT - Listed building consent for reconstruction of ragstone retaining wall. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/2140/N - KENT WILDLIFE TRUST, TYLAND BARN, CHATHAM ROAD, SANDLING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3BD - Temporary siting of two storage containers (for a 5 year period) 6m long by 2.5m wide and 2.5m high. Replacement of boundary fence and field gate. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/2145/S - THE FINCHES, CHARTWAY STREET, EAST SUTTON, KENT - Change of use of land for the storage of 10 caravans. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/2168/S - LAND WEST OF, BURIAL GROUND LANE, TOVIL, KENT - Erection of 29 dwellings including the raising of land levels within the site, construction of new access from Farleigh Hill together with the construction of new internal access roads, the provision of parking spaces and car barns and associated landscaping and footpath links. **Reason: 6, 7, 9**

MA/11/2172/N - 6, PLANTATION LANE, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4BH - Erection of single storey side and rear extension. **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **29th January 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. Dated: **15th January 2012**

PLANNING

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

KCC/DO/0532/2011 - Proposed development at Clearers (South East) Ltd, Aylesham Industrial Estate, Cooting Road, Aylesham, Canterbury, Kent, CT3 3EL.

Clearers (South East) Ltd is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for an extension of time limit to implement planning permission reference DO/08/897 for a fully enclosed waste recycling facility.

You may view this application at Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PJ.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice.

KCC/SW/0502/2011 - Proposed development at Land at Cryalls Lane, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 1HN.

Kent County Council (Waste Management) is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the installation of a gas extraction system, importation of inert fill and restoration to open space.

You may view this application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX within 14 days from the date of this notice.

Please quote the application reference numbers and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the District/Borough Council website.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address above during all reasonable office hours.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 15 January 2012

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

Notice of an Application for the Grant of a Premises Licence (Licensing Act 2003)

Notice is hereby given that Rofiqul Khan and Foyez Noor has applied to Ashford Borough Council for the GRANT of PREMISES LICENCE for sale of alcohol 12:00 – 00:00 7 days a week, late night refreshment 23:00 – 00:00 7 days a week for the premises Indian Diner situated at 12 High Street, Ashford, Kent TN24 8TD.

A register of licensing applications can be viewed at the Licensing Section, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL 01233 330721 by appointment.

Any person wishing to submit representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by: 06/02/2012. Dated this 9th day of January 2012.

The Council will not entertain representation where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER, PUBLIC SAFETY, THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE AND THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM.

It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale (£5000), under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.
8. This application is accompanied as an Environmental Statement.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 30th JANUARY 2012

SW/11/1624:
Outline application, with only access to be considered (Appearance, layout, scale and landscaping reserved for future considerations) for redevelopment of existing commercial site for residential use with garage, access and open space - Transit Works, Power Station Road, MINSTER; **REASON 3**

SW/11/1613:
Change of use of agricultural land to equestrian. Demolish existing derelict agricultural buildings, erect new barn on the footprint of the existing, erect new stable block on the footprint of the existing - Neptune Orchard, Vicarage Lane, LOWER HALSTOW; **REASON 3**

SW/11/1537:
Approval of all reserved matters, pursuant to outline permission SW/08/1127, for erection of 187 dwellings on part of the site - Coleshall Farm, Sheppey Way, IWADE; **REASONS 3 & 6**

SW/11/1607
Application for the extension of time to implement planning application SW/08/0986 (Erection of 4 wind turbines at Port of Sheerness) (This consent was development accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment) - Port of SHEERNESS; **REASONS 3 & 8**

SW/11/1549:
Conversion of brick built barn to residential use, plus associated works - Kentish Barn, Mutton Lane/Vicarage Lane, OSPRINGE; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/11/1597:
Use of the site for a vehicle storage compound including vehicle access ramp through the sea wall, vehicle access onto Whiteway Road, diversion of an existing public right of way, two bridges over the existing water course, lighting, landscaping and other associated works - Land adj Whiteway Road, QUEENBOROUGH; **REASONS 3 & 4**

SW/11/1586:
New dwelling to 2-4 South Road (and 29 West Street), Faversham. (Resubmission following application withdrawn in August 2011 (SW/11/0770) - This application for new dwelling only) - 2-4 South Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 4**

SW/11/1589
Change of use of former intensive poultry rearing building for use for extension to existing self-storage use falling within use class B8 storage and distribution; re-cladding of buildings to match adjacent buildings; demolition of part of further building and creation of additional vehicle parking area - Thunder Hill Farm, Hickmans Green, BOUGHTON; **REASON 2**

SW/11/1581 &
SW/11/1582:
Change of use from Public House to two residential dwellings, extensions, internal alterations and changes to fenestration - The Former Windmill PH, Canterbury Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/11/1587:
Variation of condition (i) of planning permission NK/8/63/318 to allow 10 month occupancy - Hollybush Farm Caravan Park, Oak Lane, MINSTER; **REASONS 2 & 3**

SW/11/1593 &
SW/11/1594:
Reconstruction of existing unit 2 (former Sunday School) and change of use to Live/Work unit - The Warehouse, Abbey Place, FAVERSHAM; REASON 1

SW/11/1588
Variation of condition 3 of permission NK/8/57/82 to allow 10 month occupancy - Golden Leas Caravan Park, Bell Farm Lane, MINSTER; **REASON 3**

SW/11/1410
Demolition of existing lean to plus erection of single storey rear extension - 10 Dane Close, HARTLIP; **REASON 1**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

WasteTech Recycling Ltd of 117 Dartford Road, Dartford, Kent, DA1 3EN is applying for a licence to use Unit 6, Detling Aerodrome, Detling, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 3HY as an operating centre for 3 goods vehicles and 0 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at South Eastern and Metropolitan traffic area, Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds. LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

To advertise in this section
01303 817111

The explorer they tried to write out of history

SEE PAGE 41

MAIN MAN RUSSELL

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- 7 breakfasts & 7 dinners
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We stay in a 3-star hotel near Dubrovnik old town with its own private beach and travel by air from Gatwick with convenient BA flights, making the most of our time abroad.

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- Excursion to Montenegro
- Escorted throughout abroad

EXPLORATION

Dr Reginald Koettlitz

Forgotten hero of the ice

A new book reveals the story of Dover explorer Dr Reginald Koettlitz, whose exploits had almost been erased from our history, as **Nick Ames** reveals

SCOTT'S Forgotten Surgeon is the book that lifts the lid on the story of a Dover explorer lost to history.

A falling-out led to the achievements of Dr Reginald Koettlitz, a leading surgeon, geologist and botanist, being almost entirely erased from the records.

But painstaking historical detective work lasting eight years from writer Gus Jones, who is married to Ann, the great-niece of the explorer, has brought the story to light.

Mr Jones said: "I wanted to give credit to my wife's great-uncle, who has been effectively written out of history. His achievements have never really been recognised – people have never heard of Dr Koettlitz, but he was a major figure during the heroic period of polar exploration.

"He was an expedition surgeon and scientist with a wide expertise in survival in the polar regions. In particular he was an expert with regard to the prevention of scurvy, still a common disease among polar explorers who refused to adhere to the lessons learnt by the native northern people over thousands of years."

The book has been widely praised by academics, and Dr Ross MacPhee of the American Museum of Natural History in New York wrote: "In this year celebrating the centenary of the conquering of the South Pole... it is more than fitting to have one of the unregarded figures of Antarctic history brought to the limelight of remembrance."

The doctor's first encounter with the problems of sub-zero temperatures came in a visit to Franz Josef Land, an area currently under Russian control and forbidden to outsiders.

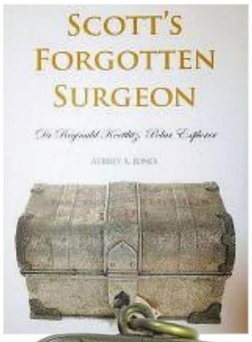
Mr Jones said: "His experience was gained while on the Jackson-Harmsworth Expedition, which lasted from 1894 to 1897.

"During this expedition he understood the importance of living off the land to prevent scurvy. This meant shooting the game available: polar bears – 94 killed, walrus – 30 killed and birds – 3,000 killed. He became an experienced skier, dog and pony-driver and invented the pyramid-type tent, called the Koettlitz tent.

"During this expedition he met Norwegian Dr Fridtjof Nansen on his return from the attempt on the North Pole. They had a shared love of geology and maintained a personal correspondence until Dr Koettlitz's death."

His next expedition was to north-east Africa, from what was then British Somaliland, on foot, camel and mule across the desert and then up the Blue Nile to Khartoum and finally Cairo.

A gold sovereign with the image of St George impressed Christian priests in Abyssinia and the explorer became the first Westerner to chart Abyssinians' lifestyle and religious beliefs, which included legends of the Ark of the Covenant being in their possession.



IT'S COLD COMFORT: Gus Jones's book reveals how Koettlitz was one of the foremost experts on polar survival during the 19th century and how his techniques could perhaps have saved Robert Scott's life during his ill-fated trip to the Antarctic

> **His expertise was available to Scott but was ignored as members played football rather than learn to ski**

The Amazon was Dr Koettlitz's next destination and en route to the Brazilian city of Manaus he amassed one of the largest collections of marine wildlife ever made.

Mr Jones said: "He was appointed senior surgeon and botanist during Commander Robert Falcon Scott's National Antarctic Expedition on board the Royal Research Ship Discovery to the southern continent from 1901 to 1904.

"His expertise was available to Scott in the planning and execution of this expedition, in particular with regard to the prevention of scurvy and general polar-survival skills such as skiing, pitching tents, using the primus stove, using dogs and so forth. But it was ignored or overlooked at the members played football rather than learn to ski.

"There was a personality clash – Dr Koettlitz was a serious, scientifically-minded individual and could not abide the 'jolly japes' and the amateur attitude shown by a number of the naval officers and some scientific staff.

"In a letter to his brother he wrote 'They are a different class of man to any I have associated with before, and a class not altogether to my taste except now and then, the reason being that everything is a joke with them. Life is a joke, everything one says, and every argument or topic of conversation is turned into an absurdity'."

And in a letter to fellow explorer Nansen, Dr Koettlitz writes: "These naval and other officers look upon everything that happens and that they do as a 'bit of fun', as sport, and they do it in sporting style. There is no backbone in it, and much of it is carelessly done."

Mr Jones said: "Scurvy should never had made an appearance when so much fresh meat was available, but it did. There was little or no training in polar survival and Scott, fellow explorer Ernest Shackleton and Edward Wilson [Dr Koettlitz's deputy] were lucky to survive their trip south across the ice barrier."

When the expedition returned, the surgeon's name was even omitted from the medical records of the expedition.

"It was a huge disappointment to him and he spent the rest of his life in South Africa, where he was a successful doctor," said Mr Jones.

"Scott died on his second expedition, and I feel had he adopted Dr Koettlitz's methods they might have made a difference."

■ **Scott's Forgotten Surgeon: Dr Reginald Koettlitz, Polar Explorer, by Aubrey A Jones, is available from whittlespublishing.com.**

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MAISY seeks male who likes dogs, country walks, beach, meals out and knows there own mind for a relationship and to build memories, fun loving lady 47. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383733**

CAROL alone on a Saturday night with a bag of chips, what am I doing? Sick of being single and looking for a male who can handle a good women. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383119**

SHARON 5ft 7ins, slim blonde, attractive, funny, good job, nice home, sports car, well educated/travelled, newly single and looking for love. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383113**

ERIN attractive petite divorcee with own home, looking for nights in/out, friendship and maybe more with mature male. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383111**

ALEX attractive professional, separated, no ties, OHAC, seeks similar romantic male for love, companionship and more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383049**

SHARON 33, slim blonde, blue eyes outgoing, attractive, looking to put some much needed fun back into life, seeks male 30-45yrs. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383047**

LOOKING to start the New Year of with a bang? Faye open minded 20yr old female just looking for fun times. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383045**

FEMALE 58, 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, cuddly, caring, likes animals, drink, good food, seeks likeminded male to share life with. Is that you? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383669**

SANDRA 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTM male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497**

TRISHA teacher, blonde, attractive, uncomplicated, undemanding, non materialist well travelled, likes reading, walking, laughing, seeks tall, professional male, 60's for simple joys. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379891**

ANGELA Scottish female, dark hair, green eyes, attractive, new to the area, no ties, OHAC, seeks gentle male for good times and more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382227**

DAWN young looking slim attractive fashionable 40's female, cultured and educated, discreet, WLTM genuine male for mutually convenient relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382223**

KATIE pretty slim blonde female, 35, N/S, likes pubs, countryside, meals out, seeking outgoing male for fun times, maybe relationship. Interested? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382205**

CLARE petite dark haired attractive female with lots of interests, seeking male for mutual companionship. Must be respectful and discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382203**

LISA attractive dental nurse 25, been hurt in the past, looking for romantic male, 35-50yrs for loving friendship, maybe more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382201**

SUSIE tactile 33yr old female who loves fast cars and motorbikes, seeks genuine male prepared to live life in the fast lane, 35-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382163**

BLACK female, professional, African, 5ft 2ins, size 12, late 30's, hardworking, no ties, seeks man for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389090**

FEMALE 42, African, understanding, seeks romantic, understanding, outgoing male, 45-50 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383001**

MARY fun loving brunette, seeking friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382689**

BERYL 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503**

TALL slim, blonde, blue eyed voluptuous female, seeks older male, 70 plus for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382453**

SARAH 29yr old slim brunette with many interests seeks sincere male, 28-40yrs for fun times and more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382161**

STEFF 32, slim, hazel eyes, long hair, curvy size 10, likes cosying up, cuddles, tickles, sick of being lonely and bored, not looking for complications just love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382159**

ANN slim blonde female, lovely big blue eyes, great personality, outgoing, employed, OHAC, WLTM caring 40's male for adult fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382085**

DEBBIE dark haired passionate classy, discreet female looking for professional intelligent male wanting mutual companionship. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380441**

DEBORAH 38 missing that special someone in my life. Call me, even if you're not the one I guarantee we will still have loads of fun! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380439**

FEMALE 74, 5ft 1ins, artistic, versatile, seeks nice caring gent for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378465**

LADY late 50's, new to area, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378403**

WANNA spend Chrimbo with a big busty bimbo? Tracy separated and looking for Mr Fun! Come on you have to lose. Call me. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380009**

SHIRLEY young looking tall attractive fit female, OHAC, open-minded, varied interests seeks tall male for genuine dates. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380005**

BLACK female, 35, GSOH, caring, loving, kind, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376611**

CLAIRE 38 blue eyes, blonde, voluptuous, curvy, looking for professional gent up to 50yrs LTR. Call me to meet up for a casual drink and chat. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380881**

FEMALE likes coast walks, shopping, gardening, countryside, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381463**

TIA 38yr old attractive blonde female, likes keep fit, home life, looking for similar genuine romantic for sensual relationship and good friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382081**

WENDY enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy? I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382079**

MARIA 47, curly blonde hair, 5ft 6ins, size 14, GSOH, likes reading, walks, WLTM kind, friendly, fun loving gent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380509**

SUSAN 53, 5ft 3ins, slim, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, looking for male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380317**

GWEN lovely dark haired, dark blue eyed slim sensual female with GSOH, WLTM male 35-50 for fun dates and romantic nights in together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380443**

JACQUELINE 49, medium build, brown hair, likes animals, nights in/out, coastal walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381439**

JAYNE tall blonde, blue eyes, attractive, OHAC, no ties, enjoys nights out, romantic nights in, WLTM male up to 55yrs for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381365**

EMMIE 28yr old lonely single mum all out of love, looking for good company with male who can tame a confident beautiful sensual lady. Any looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381363**

LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159**

CHERYL young 54, attractive, petite, brunette, slim, likes most things, easygoing, looking for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380141**

MARIE solvent, independent, likes meals out, good things in life, GSOH, love pets/children, seeks honest, affectionate male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388574**

KATH 41 slim size 10, attractive and hardworking, likes cosy nights in/out, seeks cuddly romantic guy for tlc and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381339**

TANYA attractive, fit, slim, fun, all a hot blooded male wants! Now I have your attention, 37yr single female looking for the real deal. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381335**

CHRISTMAS special! Tia shy pretty female 39, seeks outgoing man to coax me out of my shell, for good times and old langsynes. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381333**

45YR old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319** μ

RACHEL blonde brown eyed slim but feminine female, 32, likes wining/dining, theatre, WLTM reliable male for diner dates and romancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377531**

CARMEL blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380001**

HANNAH 34 slim petite green eyed single mum with many interest, seeking discreet older male for mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379977**

SAM 35, green eyed voluptuous, busty, loves football, theatre, travel, red wine, WLTM older male up to 65yrs for sensual relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379975**

MEL tall curvy attractive blonde, loves cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine, looking for some male attention and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379971**

NINA black beauty, classy 21, loves to have lots of fun, seeks older man who is willing to come up with a few new ideas for adult fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381361**

ANITA 58, 5ft 3ins, auburn hair, green eyes, likes swimming, bowling, shows, holidays, walks, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387416**

KATH slim, petite size 10, hardworking attractive, OHAC, seeking loving romantic guy to enjoy cosy nights in cuddling up with a dvd and glass of wine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381729**

JULIE late 70's, petite, widowed, seeks gent with car and GSOH who loves animals. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379277** μ

TANYA 28, beautiful black single mum, very body confident and all out of love. Lonely and looking for good company with experienced respectful man. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381727**

HI genuine, fun to be with male? Nancy 39, attractive, discreet, lonely and in need of some much missed male attention. Call me **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381705**

IRENE looking for happy go lucky relationship with trustworthy male for romantic evenings in, quiet nights out, passionate weekends away and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381701**

KERRY 31 outgoing confident with laid back attitude, looking for relaxed relationship with tactile male, any age/looks/size or status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381697**

TARA 5ft big blue eyed babe with a cute smile looking for older sugar daddy who is not afraid to spend a little to live a lot! Good times always guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381731**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, dvds, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

LOOKING for a nice soul mate, dinners, drinks, walks, someone who enjoys life, I am optimistic, happy, fun, cuddly, slim, red hair, enjoy good food, working out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379865**

CARRIE 28yr old Christmas cracker, seeking easygoing confident character to pull me! ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380855**

SUE long blonde haired slim but curvy pretty female, loves to live life to the full, good wine, shopping, seeking genuine male 48-60yrs for adult friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380853**

I don't wanna be alone and unattached for another Xmas! Bev, attractive, big hearted, many interests, seeks male willing to take an interest in me! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376593**

KAZ 32yr old intellectual mixed race female, likes gym, meals in/out, seeks reliable, honest male, 38-58yrs to get to know for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376591**

NATALIE blonde blue eyed nurse, 39yrs medium build, no ties, life is good but I'm missing someone to love and lust after. Can you help? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376589**

AUDREY recently widowed, seeks lonely gent for friendship and conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381213**

ALICE 30's female, slim, lovely smile, not that happy at the moment but hoping you might change that, you've nothing to loose? Call me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379201**

LISA sexy blonde 31yrs, extremely fit and outgoing, seeking male for casual friendship with benefits. Discretion assured. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380879**

TRISH tall slim brunette, honest, reliable, affectionate, OHAC, no ties, outgoing, loves Indian food, seeking male 39-50yrs for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380877**

CAROL attractive lady of leisure, solvent, OHAC, WLTM sincere gent willing to entertain and share all of life's naughty indulgences with me. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380857**

TASHA 37, blonde tanned and very pretty, seeks well dressed older male with GSOH for fun meets, loving treats and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375605**

FUN loving male, 49, good job, likes sport seeks female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389170**

TONY good looking male, seeking female for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389166**

RICHARD 47, likes theatre, holidays, museums, travel, countryside, walks, looking for happy LTR with female, 36-63. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383173**

DEREK country loving man seeks young lady up to 50. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382353**

BLACK male, 58, medium build, likes sports, tv, cosy nights in, seeks female, 45-60 for love, romance and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382325**

RICHARD 5ft 6ins, dark hair, blue eyes, 46, likes holidays, theatre, countryside, walks, cinema, meals out, seeks female, 38-63 for happy LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382285**

PAUL 62, caring, reliable, understanding, no ties, seeks romantic, understanding lady, 52-67 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382175**

HOWARD 53, medium build, 6ft, dark hair, blue eyes, GSOH, seeks female, size 8-14 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382129**

Men Seeking

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719**

LOVING genuine male, 41, seeks similar loving lady, 30-65 for loving relationship and future together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383715**

TV Sarah, tall, slim, long legs, seeks female who enjoys the company of a sexy, experienced TV. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383753**

29YR old lonely male, hurt in past, likes nights in/out, seeking good company with a female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383709**

CHRIS young 52, caring, easygoing, GSOH, looking for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383665**

DAVID 62, N/S, caring, considerate, reliable, no ties, seeks romantic, understanding lady 55-67 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383505**

50YR old male, slim, 5ft 6ins, down to earth, GSOH, honest, likes music, country walks, pubs, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389206**

YOUNG male, 55, seeks attractive black girlfriend, N/S, likes country pubs, seaside, music, semi professional musician. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383151**

CHRIS 33, likes marathon running, nights out, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382959**

EASYGOING cheerful, decent man, 64, 6ft, 13st, blue eyes, educated, romantic, seeks nice, slim, elegant female, 47-57. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382933**

EARLY 40's male, handsome, strong, looking for fun times with likeminded female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389128**

MALE 44 likes meals out, cinema, seeks considerate, outgoing female of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389066**

STEVE designer, 5ft 10ins, good looking, seeking friendly lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382601**

IRVING 72, tactile, N/S, likes bowls, seeking attractive N/S female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382567**

MICHAEL 58, retired, 6ft, many interests, fit, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382519**

DAVID light hearted positive 58yr old male, has high expectation of what he can offer a woman aged between 30-52. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383275**

48YR old male, born again Christian, seeks loving, faithful female for loving marriage. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383239**

Gay Seeking

BI guy, looking for older gent, 50-60's for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372943**

ALAN experienced bi male, seeks similar guy or couple for friendship and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379059**

LEN min 60's, looking for active male, 55-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377261**

EASYGOING guy congenial, 63, likes outdoors, books, seeks slim, quiet guy, N/S for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377723**

MIDDLE aged guy, medium build, seeks male, 45-60 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377655**

RYAN medium build, brown hair, looking for male for fun, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381211**

JOHN 59, seeking fit, assertive male, 49-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377817**

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Vegetarian Hutch offers so much more than tasteless rabbit food

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

DEDICATED vegetarian restaurants are few and far between, so it is good to see that one has opened in Canterbury.

The Hutch offers non-meat-eaters the sort of fine-dining experience that is rarely associated with vegetarian food, which has a reputation – deserved or otherwise – for sometimes being a little tasteless.

The menu has a wide range of dishes. I started with sliced golden beetroot on a bed of quinoa (a grain that originates in Latin America and is apparently high in protein) and puy lentils.

This was the first time I had eaten the couscous-like quinoa. It was certainly a bit more nutty compared with rice or bulgar wheat and a hearty starter that you couldn't help feel must be doing you some good while you ate it.

The golden (well, orange, really) beetroot was not the usual boiled variety but had been left nice and crunchy to give the dish some bite, while there was a red beetroot dressing with rocket, just to add to the flavours.

Despite a fair-sized helping, the dish did not fill me up before the main course. My partner (a vegetarian of many years' standing) enjoyed a hearty bowl of root-vegetable soup with some nice home-made bread. She also enjoyed being in a restaurant where we could share each other's food for a change.

For the main, I chose the item on the menu that most resembled a meat dish: Haggis Wellington, a tasty combination of grains, pulses, vegetables and nuts wrapped in pastry. It was accompanied by some tasty braised cabbage and potato mash served with red-wine gravy.

This was certainly a hearty main meal ideal for a cold winter evening. Nothing was left on the plate, which suggested another helping would not have gone amiss.

My partner chose a butternut squash tart with celeriac and Stilton accompanied by roast vegetables and spicy leeks, which certainly smelt as good as it sounded.

To finish, I had a poached pear accompanied by ice-cream and a non-dairy chocolate sauce sat on a crunchy biscuit. This made a nice light dessert, the ideal end to my meal.

My partner chose a Kent-orchard crumble with ginger ice-cream – a nice, large plateful that needed some willing assistance from me to polish it off.

The Hutch's fare made a nice change from the usual meat-focused food I normally eat.

I am sure that whether you are a dedicated vegetarian or just the occasional non-meat-eater, you will enjoy the menu, most of which is suitable even for hardcore vegans.

Although a little more expensive than the average veggie dish found on a restaurant menu, you can tell that a lot of effort has gone into preparing the food.

And at just under £50 for two of us, plus a glass of red wine and some refreshing Biddenden cider, it did not exactly break the bank.

Judging by the quick turnover at the tables, it would be wise to book your table as well.

Ed Hill

■ **The Hutch**
13 Palace Street, Canterbury
Telephone: 01227 766700
www.thehutchcanterbury.co.uk

FARMERS' MARKETS

WAREHORNE: All profits go toward the upkeep of the village hall. The market, which is run by volunteers, takes place on the fourth Sunday of the month between 10am and 12.30pm.

YALDING: Open on the third Saturday of every month in the high street. Products include fruit and vegetables (including organic), bread, cheese, fresh meats and sausages.

ST MARGARET'S: Running for over 12 years on the last Friday of the month (9am to 12.30pm). It is a non-profit-making charity and the market is the main fund-raising activity for the village nursery, benefiting the community.

HORSMONDEN: Held every other Friday with some 20 stalls, covering a full range of produce including meat, eggs, cheese, fruit and vegetables, bread, jams and pickles, pies, cakes, exotic produce and Italian meals.

HEADCORN: Open every second Saturday from 9.30am to 12.30pm at the village hall. It aims to provide good-quality local produce and locally-made goods.

PENSHURST: The Times recently named this market in its Top 10 markets in the UK. With more than 30 stalls offering the best local food and drink, and set against the backdrop of Penshurst Place, this hugely popular market is held on the first Saturday of each month.

■ **For more information on farmers' markets around the county, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk**

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Contact Anthony Peers at tony.peers@africarelieftrust.org

KENT ATTRACTIONS

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Why habitat is the word
Fun learning

Port Lympne Wild Animal Park
Open 10am-4pm
0844 8424647
www.aspinallfoundation.org

VISITORS to Port Lympne Wild Animal Park this month can go on trails and take part in activities to find out about animal habitats.
January's theme days will include talks on why so many animals' habitat is vanishing all over the world, from rainforest to savannah, and what this means for the different species.
Animal director Adrian Harland said: "We have decided to have a specific theme each month at the park. Visitors can become involved in the activities and trails and find out more about the animals here and our conservation work."
You can take part in trails leading them through 600 acres, finding clues, solving riddles and learning facts.

Green tips
Be a better gardener

Godinton House, Ashford
From Friday, February 24
01233 643854
godinton-house-gardens.co.uk

IF your new year's resolution is to burn off some calories, or to take up a new interest, Godinton House has a new programme of gardening workshops for 2012.
The year starts with a rose-pruning morning on Saturday, February 4, with head gardener Viv Hunt.
The sessions will give tips on how to produce better-flowering, healthy plants, with advice on year-round care.
Running from Friday, February 24, the Practical Gardener course is for anyone who wants to learn how to get the best from their outside oasis.
There will be six morning sessions of practical skills to help fill the gaps in your knowledge of the garden.
The course will be held on Friday mornings from 9.30am to 1.30pm and costs £175.

A tragic tale in song
The life of Eva Cassidy

The Central Theatre, Chatham
Saturday, February 25
01634 338338
email: boxoffice@medway.gov.uk

AWARD-WINNING musical Somewhere Over The Rainbow heads to The Central Theatre in Chatham next month.
The compelling show tells the extraordinary life story of American singer-songwriter Eva Cassidy. The show, which will feature hits like Songbird, What A Wonderful World and the title track Over The Rainbow, features popstar Maureen Nolan.
The show follows Eva's lfe through dramatic scenes and live renditions to her tragic death in 1996, aged just 33.
The show also stars Sarah Jane Buckley from Hollyoaks and Rob McVeigh from BBC's Any Dream Will Do. Tickets start at £17.50.

Moans about masculinity
Russell Kane

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Friday, March 2, at 8pm
01892 530613

AFTER a sell-out run at the Edinburgh Festival this year, TV funnyman Russell Kane brings his new show to Kent.
As part of a 57-date UK tour, Manscaping will see the Comedy Rocks regular and ITV2 I'm A Celebrity, Get Me Out Of Here presenter explore the state of masculinity in the modern world.
Manscaping is Kane's examination of the 12 possible shapes that manhood takes over the years.
Kane won both the Foster's Edinburgh Comedy Award and the Barry Award at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival in 2010 and is one of the up-and-coming performers on the UK circuit.
Tickets £17.50 from www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

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Victorian celebrations
Joint birthday bash

The Historic Dockyard, Chatham
Friday to Tuesday, February 13-17
01634 823845
www.thedockyard.co.uk

THE Historic Dockyard, Chatham, is celebrating the birthdays of two of the most famous 19th-century icons of entertainment, Charles Dickens and Punch and Judy.
Author and Medway resident Dickens would have been celebrating his 200th birthday, while Mr Punch would be 350.
As part of these half-term celebrations, parents can bring their children to the dockyard for indoor Victorian fun and games, including the traditional puppet show and Dickensian story time as well as the chance to make their very own Victorian toy.
There will also be a traditional tug of war to test parents' strength.

With strings attached
Pinnochio

Astor Theatre, Deal
Sunday, January 29
01304 370220
info@theastor.org

THE Strangeface Theatre Company will be performing The Amazing Adventures Of Pinocchio at Astor Community Theatre later this month.
Based on the original story by Carlo Callodi, the award-winning team brings a mix of masks, puppets and music to this tale of mischief and temptation.
Pinocchio is the original puppet in a pickle who takes us on a journey from his first moments as a talking log through a series of scrapes with fairies and a sinister puppetmaster.
This production also includes Strangeface's traditional backstage tour. Families with children aged five and over are welcome. Tickets cost £6 for adults, £4 for children and £15 for a family of four.

Oh Boy! It's all about the 60s
Buddy reborn

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Thursday, February 23
01322 220 000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

SIXTIES icon Jess Conrad is joining the cast as special guest in the upcoming tribute show Buddy Holly – A Legend Reborn.
Conrad was discovered on TV show Oh Boy! and became a chart-topper with his singles Mystery Girl, Cherry Pie and This Pullover before starring on the silver screen and the West End stage.
Buddy Holly – A Legend Reborn stars the UK's top Holly impersonator Marc Robinson, backed by a band reminiscent of The Crickets in their 50s heyday. Bop to classic hits like Peggy Sue and That'll Be The Day before a Stars In Their Eyes-style performance that includes The Fortt Brothers as The Everly Brothers and Jess Conrad as himself.

Classic music for the soul
Top orchestra

The Shirley Hall, Canterbury
Saturday, February 11
01227 763965
www.crowthersofcanterbury.co.uk

THE Festival Chamber Orchestra will be performing its new concert Music To Feed The Soul in February.
The orchestra will be joined by the counter-tenor Michael Chance, who has established a worldwide reputation as one of the top male alto voices and is equally in demand as an opera, concert and recording artist.
Anthony Halstead will conduct the orchestra for this special concert. Halstead is widely known as a virtuoso on the natural horn but has gradually moved into the role of conductor and even directed the Academy Of Ancient Music, the Orchestra Of The Age Of Enlightenment and, most notably, the Hanover Band.
The music includes Elgar's Soliloquy For Oboe, to be played by Ian Crowther, and Bach's Concerto For Oboe And Violin In D Minor.

STAGE & ARTS

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Tripping the folk fantastic
Los Salvadores

The Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne
Friday, February 3, at 7.30pm
01795 471 140

THREE bands from Kent's new wave of folk music are playing at The Avenue Theatre in Sittingbourne as part of The Gunpowder Works show in February.
Rising stars Los Salvadores combine traditional music with a range of orchestral and world influences to create a multilayered blend of melody and rhythm.
The group have already proved a huge hit on the folk festival circuit in 2011 and their following has grown with the quartet's increasing profile.
Los Salvadores are hitting the road with fellow alternative folk acts Wheels and The Flowing as part of a three-date Kentish theatre tour.
Tickets cost £5 each and are available online through www.avenuetheatre.co.uk or by phoning the box office on 01795 471140.

Basil and Sybil back in tow
Fawlty Towers

Granville Theatre, Ramsgate
Tue, February 28-Sat, March 3
01843 591750
www.granvilletheatre.com

FANS of the British sitcom Fawlty Towers will be thrilled at the prospect of seeing the show re-created live on stage at the Granville Theatre... just don't mention the war.
East Kent Productions will perform three classic episodes including The Hotel Inspector, Communication Problems and The Germans.
Taking on one of the best sitcoms in British history is dangerous, but the group has already been successful with previous stage adaptations of Are You Being Served? and Shut Your Eyes And Think of England.
Book tickets in January for the 7.30pm show on Tuesday, February 28, or the 2.30pm show on Saturday, March 3, and receive two for one.

Take Route 66 for rock'n'roll
USAnthems

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Wednesday, February 8
01892 530613

PRODUCED in association with Harley-Davidson, American Anthems is the rock musical based on the search for a legendary star who disappeared in the early 90s at the height of his fame.
Route 66 FM leads the search for Rocky Rhodes, tracking him across America for one last concert.
The show features the music of Bruce Springsteen, Bon Jovi, The Eagles, Elvis and Bryan Adams, with classics like Walking In Memphis, We Built This City, Born To Run and Sweet Child Of Mine.
Appearing as a guest star is John Parr, who had a worldwide hit with St Elmo's Fire.
For further details, see www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

Handel's Messiah
The best of Baroque

Canterbury Cathedral
Saturday, January 21, at 7.30pm
01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

THE Canterbury Choral Society will perform the stunning Handel's Messiah at the cathedral next week.
Composed in 1741, The Messiah is recognised as one of the best-known and most frequently performed choral works and will be once again sung by the 150 chorus members of the popular society.
They will be joined by local bass Benjamin Bevan, above, who has become a favourite with Kent audiences. The Canterbury group will also be accompanied by the London Handel Orchestra, who use many of the finest professional Baroque musicians in the country, making this a must-see event.

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Funding care in your old age doesn't always mean having to sell your home

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

AS THE UK's ageing population increases, more and more people are facing the prospect of funding their own care – and wondering how they're going to be able to afford it.

Faced with such a daunting decision, many automatically think they will have to sell their home, but that isn't always the case, says Ruth Dolan, a chartered financial planner with law firm Furley Page, which has offices in Canterbury and Medway.

"People shouldn't panic into making rash decisions," she said.

"There are many options to be considered before you go down that route and it's vital you get proper advice to avoid depleting your assets unnecessarily."

Under current rules governing the funding of long-term care, the cost is an individual's responsibility if he or she has assets over £23,250.

When being financially assessed, most of the assets will be incorporated, including a home.

The exception is when the home is occupied by a partner or a relative who is over 60 or under 16.

"If you need to move into a care home, then generally, unless it is disregarded for the financial assessment or you have sufficient other assets, your home will need to be sold and the proceeds used to pay care fees. But there are options," said Dolan.

"These include taking an equity-release scheme, or purchasing a care fees annuity, which provides an income for the rest of your life.

"These are usually purchased with a lump sum, often once a property has been sold, but it may be possible to secure the cost of an annuity against the value of your house if you don't want to or can't sell it.

"In some cases it's possible to apply to the local authority for a deferred-payment scheme, which is effectively an interest-free loan secured upon the property.

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BERWICK HOUSE

Enjoy open space

BERWICK House in picturesque Lympne is a handsome Grade II-listed Queen Anne house set in extensive gardens and woodlands

Accommodation comprises a reception hall, drawing room, dining room, sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room, study, utility room, cloakroom, master bedroom with en-suite, five further bedrooms (one en-suite), two bathrooms and a separate shower room.

There is also a double garage, orangery with heated pool and landscaped gardens spread across 2.5 acres.

The village of Lympne offers good facilities, including a primary school and road and rail links. Westenhanger mainline railway station and junction 11 of the M20 are easily reached via a few minutes' drive, placing Ashford and beyond within easy reach.

The high-speed rail link from Ashford International station offers a journey time of just 37 minutes to London St Pancras.

The ancient Cinque Port of Hythe (three miles away) offers good local amenities, together with a selection of shops, including Waitrose and Sainsbury.

The cathedral city of Canterbury (15 miles) and the towns of Ashford and Folkestone offer extensive shopping and leisure activities, together with a fine range of educational facilities both in the independent and state sectors.

For the Continent, the Channel Tunnel terminal on the outskirts of Folkestone is within easy reach by car, as are ferries from Dover.

The property is offered at £875,000. Further details are available from agents Champion and Company; phone 01303 260666.

TIMBER LODGE

Surround yourself with truly stunning views

SET in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with far-reaching views down to the Kent coast as far as Dungeness, Timber Lodge offers a modern, comfortable and contemporary living space, with the benefit of landscaped gardens, views over fields and a large roof terrace to take advantage of the superb outlook.

A uniquely-designed detached family home in the village of Charing, it has been extensively renovated and updated by the owners to create an interesting and inviting property.

With reversed accommodation arranged over two floors to make the most of the views, there are such notable benefits as a 24ft 10in kitchen/diner with gloss-white units and oak worktops, cloakroom, living room with double patio doors overlooking the gardens and an 18ft 11in television/reception room.

On the lower ground floor there is a master bedroom suite with en-suite bathroom, two further double bedrooms, each with its own en-suite shower room, a single bedroom/study, an additional family shower room and boiler/utility room.

There is a roof terrace that is just ideal for alfresco dining and relaxing, offering superb views over the well-tended rear gardens, neighbouring fields and down to the coast.

To the front, there is a driveway with parking for numerous vehicles, steps leading down to the front of the property and side access to the rear gardens.

Timber Lodge is priced at £565,000. For further details about this property, phone Saddlers on 01233 713127, email property@saddlersresidential.co.uk, or visit www.saddlersresidential.co.uk.

WEAR BAY CRESCENT

Edwardian home is filled with character

WEAR Bay Crescent is an excellent period property that is now on the market for £245,000.

This impressive Edwardian-built semi-detached family-size house is in the popular East Cliff area of Folkestone with some excellent sea views from the upper balcony that leads from the master bedroom.

There are three further bedrooms, an entrance hall, two reception rooms and a kitchen with an additional breakfast room. There is a storeroom with potential as a study, a bathroom, a downstairs toilet, gas central-heating and on-site parking.

This really is a house full of character, with many period features and stripped-pine joinery and floors.

It offers excellent family accommodation, with further scope for development. Viewing is highly recommended so that the full potential of the home can be explored.

Folkestone itself is an attractive seaside town that is undergoing an arts-led renaissance, with its Triennial festival attracting praise from all quarters.

The town centre is within easy reach of the property, as is the beach and the popular Leas promenade, which has lovely views out to sea.

Folkestone is just off the M20 and has good connections by rail to both London and the Continent. Journey times to St Pancras station are just 55 minutes, while the Eurotunnel shuttle service takes about 30 minutes to reach Calais from neighbouring Cheriton.

For further details and to take a look, phone H Wald & Co on 01303 212020.

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FEATURE PROPERTY

Webb Close £339,000 Freehold

This is a carefully extended, well appointed Georgian style detached family house in a pleasant cul-de-sac location backing onto open ground. It is particuarly convenient for the M20 and rail connections for Ashford and London. The house benefits from views towards The Downs.

The house has the benefit of UPVC replacement double glazed windows and external doors, a stylish new kitchen and bathroom, extensions to the dining room and the formation of a ground floor study. It has an entrance hall, cloakroom, living room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, side porch, study, conservatory, four bedrooms, bathroom/w.c and an attached garage.

FEATURE PROPERTY

Shorncliffe Crescent £260,000 Freehold

H Wald & Co are pleased to offer this popular style semi detached family house in a sought after convenient location. It comprises an entrance hall, living room, fitted kitchen, dining room, three bedrooms, useful loft room, bathroom, separate w.c,., gas central heating, UPVC replacement double glazing, a detached garage, a good onsite parking space and attractive gardens.

The house has been well re-modernised in recent years and internal viewing is strongly recommended.

The team at H.Wald & Co pride themselves on a friendly, professional service. We are the longest established firm of Chartered Surveyors in Folkestone and are RICS registered. We aim to provide honest and realistic valuations and are committed to consistent high standards and competitive commission terms.

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GRASMERE GARDENS £179,950 Freehold

Well appointed, extended modern terraced home in pleasant end of cul-de-sac location. Fitted kit/bfast room, open plan lounge/dining room, cloakroom, 3 beds, GCH, replacement DG, attractive rear patio garden, deck & summerhouse, Integral garage.

PARK FARM ROAD £154,950 Freehold

Well located chalet bungalow. Potential for further modernisation. Entrance, 2 rec, bath, 2 beds, det gge, Gdns, GCH, DG.

GRIMSTON AVENUE £130,000 to £150,000 Leasehold

Spaciously proportioned 1st Floor Apartment in West End. Entrance, lge/dining room, Fitted Kit, 2 beds, Electric Heating, Carpets, New 125 yr lease, original Victorian features

GERALDINE ROAD £139,500 Freehold

Conveniently located 3 bed house. Entrance, 2 recs, Kit, 3 Beds, GCH, DG, S Facing rear Gdn & Patio. Scope for further potential.

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RADNOR PARK ROAD £895 pcm

Detached 3/4 bed refurbished house. 4 beds, 2 baths, 2 rec, sep kit, GCH, DG, Garden. Part furnished.

FORELAND AVENUE £850 pcm

3 Bed house. 2 baths. Rec, Sep kit + white goods. GCH. Gdn. Off road pkg & Garage.Unfurnished. Regret no smokers.

GRIMSTON GARDENS £650 pcm

1st Floor 2 bed flat. Family bathroom, Rec, Kit + white goods, GCH, 2 balconies. Part furnished.

GRANGE COURT £625 pcm

2nd floor flat. Lift. 2 Beds, Family Bath, Rec, Kit + white goods, GCH, DG, Garage. Unfurnished.

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Rural Charing £650,000
Four bedroom detached house set on 3.5 acres with out-buildings (one with planning for conversion) overlooking farmland.

Eastling £615,000
Sizeable four bedroom, two bathroom detached bungalow with 40ft games room and double garage on private plot of almost 2.5 acres backing farmland.

Rural Charing £599,995
Substantial five bedroom detached bungalow with outdoor heated swimming pool and double garage set in gardens of one acre with far reaching views.

Pluckley OIEO £575,000
Character four bedroom detached family home built in 2000, set in extensive gardens of 1.75 acres.

Charing £425,000
Elegant four bedroom, two bathroom detached Barn conversion with walled garden and garage in central village location.

Sandway £425,000
300 year old three bedroom extended stone cottage with contemporary interior, detached stone barn and views over surrounding countryside.

Rural Charing £425,000
Four bedroom, two bathroom detached chalet bungalow with 33ft conservatory and detached garage, on plot of 0.4 acre in quiet country lane.

Tilmanstone £325,000
Character four bedroom former laundry house conversion with enclosed rear garden and garage in manor house mews development in sought after rural village near Deal.

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- Walking distance high speed rail link

Hythe £179,500
- 2 bedroom first floor flat
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£425,000 Freehold

SEABROOK

Character town houses, 2 beds, 3rd bed/study, 2 bath/shower rooms, situated in heart of Sandgate near Esplanade and seafront.

Guide Price £170,000 - £200,000 Freehold

HYTHE

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ADVERTISERS ANNOUNCEMENT

London Buyers just keep coming!

Originally detached from Mainland England The Isle of Thanet has a varied landscape and diverse culture, offering both seaside and country living on the doorstep of Europe. 25 miles of sandy beaches, sprawling bays, intimate coves, a Royal Marina, period architecture and so much more. Is it any wonder the appeal to buy property in this area is as great as it has ever been.

Some of the stunning views from around Thanet

Once known as DFL'S (Down From London) and for merely flirting with the idea of buying a home by the sea, their interest more a passing fad than an actual desire to buy a home. But this could not be any further from the truth in today's market, especially in Margate, Ramsgate & Broadstairs where out of town buyers are now moving to the coast in droves.

In some weeks out of town buyers generate more enquiries than local people looking to move here and during the summer months this trend shows no signs of slowing down. Irrespective of people's perceptions of what is happening in the housing market during this recession we are experiencing considerable viewing activity across The Isle.

The key reasons why you may ask?

- **Very attractive property prices compared with their own**
- **Healthier & higher quality of life style**
- **Education & schooling**
- **Holiday & second home owners**
- **Greater returns for buy-to-let investors**
- **Improved road and rail infrastructure**
- **Historic links, a wealth of Georgian and Regency architecture**

Demand is strong and we are finding that the buyers are highly motivated, primarily cash and no connected chains! Their preference is the period properties located in the Crescents and Squares of Ramsgate & Margate. Recent sales have included a fully refurbished Grade II listed 5 bed Georgian town house in Chapel Place Ramsgate which sold for £385,000. A double fronted Grade II listed home in Caroline Square Margate sold for £106,250! A substantial property in Grosvenor Place Margate with a self contained 1 bedroom flat recently sold at the asking price of £225,000.

A magnificent Victorian 4 storey town house located on Inverness Terrace Broadstairs in the region of £400,000.

The internet has definitely had a major impact on the number of enquiries that we now handle from out of town buyers; www.milesandbarr.co.uk regularly attracts 25,000 visitors a month with just under 50% being new visits.

Rightmove, Primelocation, Find-aproperty and Homesale Network contribute heavily with daily phone calls, emails and walk-ins from clients who have seen properties on these sites which they would like to arrange viewings on. Rightmove the largest property portal, www.rightmove.co.uk, states that around 80% of people who are thinking of buying begin their search on the web.

With the recent opening of The Turner Contemporary Gallery, designed by David Chipperfield Architects, Kent County Councils vision of it being a catalyst for the regeneration of Margate's Old Town & Cultural Quarter would seem to be right. Considerable investment in the old town buildings with an eclectic mix of new shops, bars and restaurants opening up have firmly put Margate in the spotlight. So much so that Miles and Barr have taken the decision to re-open in the area to satisfy the demand for property in the immediate area.

Photographs courtesy of Steve Cort

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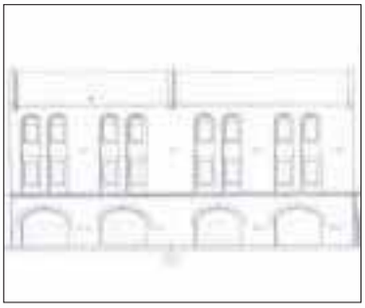
Sundridge
£500,000-£600,000
Detached grade 11* listed 7 bedroom house requiring renovation set in 0.5 acres with further land available.

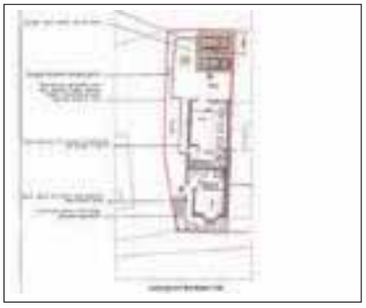
Wingham
Guide Price £500,000
3.5 acre plot with planning for replacement dwelling - further 7 acres of land available.

Wilmington
Guide Price £750,000
Double plot with planning for 2 detached dwellings of circa 3,600 sq ft, set in sought after location.



St Leonards-on-Sea
Guide Price £250,000
Site with planning for 6 dwellings and offices – further potential, subject to planning.

WANTED Site with planning for 2 or 3 houses with grounds set in a rural location



Hastings
£65,000-£85,000
Site with planning for 2 x 2 bed houses and parking in good location, quick sale required.

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Albourne
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Superb plot with planning for an eco home set in the heart of the village providing contemporary living.

Bexhill-on-Sea
£130,000
Single plot in sought after location with planning for a 4 bed house of approx. 1,750 sq ft.

WANTED Significant single plot in the Tunbridge Wells area with good acreage – no price limit

Greatstone
£150,000
Plot with direct beach access and planning for a 2/3 bedroom house – fantastic opportunity.

Berwick
£1,000,000
17 acre plot with planning for 8,848 sq ft replacement dwelling in unrivalled location and outstanding views.

Lamberhurst Quarter
Guide Price £225,000
Substantial barn in 0.25 acres with planning for conversion to a dwelling of approx. 3,500 sq ft.

Petteridge
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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

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- Evoque picks up US truck-of-the-year award
- Picasso given coded message by Citroën

All fun and games as Clio gets a 'sorcerer's' makeover

Driving

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STYLE AND COMFORT: Audi's A7 sees the German marque offer the comfort you would expect in a executive car but with real family appeal

Audi ticking the boxes with sporty family bahnstormer

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HATCHBACKS may be popular in the UK, but anything bigger than the VW Golf class seems to get German buyers' backs up.

Indeed, many buy a booted Golf – the Jetta. There might even be a bit of Teutonic snobbery at work here since German premium marques have avoided them except on their most junior models – until now.

For 2011 saw the launch of two big premium bahnstormer hatchbacks: the BMW 5-Series spawned the rather overblown GT, while Audi came up with the more elegant A7 Sportback to complement its A6 line-up.

They could hardly be a counter attack to sales of Ford Mondeos and Vauxhall Insignias, but I can see the sense in offering a sporty yet practical range that fits between mainstream BMWs and Audis and their out-and-out sportsters.

In the case of the A7, you get all the comforts of the A6, but a virtual five-door coupé profile at prices from £39,995-£47,200 in the case of the A7 Sportback 3.0 TDI quattro SE S-tronic given the once over here.

You will pay handsomely if you start speccing it up, though the Sportback comes with all the creature comforts most executive car buyers would expect and they won't be disappointed with driving or living with the car.

One earlier criticism has been nullified; instead of four seats only, buyers can also specify five – a big deal for people who really are buying the A7 for its family appeal.

Cabin quality and layout is also exceptional for long family trips, though the dipping roofline makes it less of a grand tourer with four adults on board.

On the driving front, Audi has developed a bespoke chassis for the car and it shows, with a decent ride yet prodigious grip and cornering power.

Of course, the sensation is enhanced by the all-wheel drive Quattro layout – well worth the £1,400 premium – but I wouldn't expect a much inferior level of handling on the front-wheel drive version.

Some keen drivers might not like the over-assisted feel of the steering, but they will love the test car's 201bhp 3.0-litre diesel.

Matched with Audi's superb S-tronic gearbox, allowing seamless changes in either auto or manual mode, it makes the A7 a real flier as well as long-distance cruiser.

MINI ROAD TEST — AUDI A7 SPORTBACK

Price:	from £16,615 to £22,300
Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★
Best rival:	BMW 5-Series GT

Brits set to catch Beetle bug with favourite's return

VOLKSWAGEN caused a sensation when its Californian design studio created a classic Beetle-inspired concept car for the 1994 Detroit Motor Show.

It drove the German brand to make this fantasy into a reality, using the trusted underpinnings from the then Golf hatchback to launch the New Beetle.

A lengthy UK waiting list showed Brits also fancied the modern re-creation, which remained in production for 12 years until axed last year.

With order books already open, look out for another waiting list ahead of its replacement in April, priced from about £15,000 and looking smarter, sportier, more upmarket and expected to be a far better drive.

The new New Beetle should also appeal to both sexes – let's face it, the old car's plant-holder on the dashboard was never going to endear it to blokes, was it?

The two-door four-seat Beetle layout is retained but, like its predecessor, the latest car is front-engine front-wheel drive, unlike the rear-engine rear-driven 1930s original.

It is also longer, wider and lower than the outgoing design, with a slightly longer wheelbase, making it look like a cross between the previous car and a traditional Porsche coupé.

The sporty interior is more upmarket too, while VW has addressed the old car's lack of bootspace.

Engine options comprise three petrol and one diesel but with two turbocharged petrol units only from launch: a 103bhp 1.2-litre with VW's seven-speed DSG manual/auto gearbox and a 158bhp 1.4-litre with six-speed manual.

There are three trim levels – Beetle, Design and Sport – with air-con and digital radio, alloys, multi-function leather steering wheel and Bluetooth as standard, with lavish options such as a panoramic sunroof and BMW Mini-style customising options.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): New Astra SRi hatchback: Urban: 28.5 (9.9) – 60.1 (4.7), Extra-urban: 49.6 (5.7) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined: 39.2 (7.2) – 72.4 (3.9). CO2 emissions 169 – 104g/km.

*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Model shown is New Astra SRi 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 19 December 2011. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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VAUXHALL

Kia on fast road with Rio

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

LONG before Bing Crosby and Bob Hope made The Road To Rio in 1947, the Road To... movie franchise was a well-established sure fire hit.

In contrast, it has taken Kia three attempts to get on the right road with its Rio model, the latest finally putting Hope-style wisecracks firmly behind and smooth Crosby-style croon-ing to the fore.

The first Rio UK buyers encountered (2001-05) was a cut-price Ford Focus with odd styling and a cheap interior, but sold at an unbeatable price.

Its successor (2005-2011) was touted as a supermini yet looked like it still wanted to be a Focus, but the ambitious Korean marque did show it was getting serious about product quality.

And now we have the latest car, launched late last year, and looking like the real deal.

It can't match the all-round appeal of the class-leading VW Polo and Ford Fiesta – the UK's best-selling car – but it is a more stylish little car at a sensible price, with decent spec and that unique seven-year/100,000-mile Kia warranty.

Like the brand's stunning Sportage SUV, the new Rio shows that former Audi ace designer Peter Schreyer – the man who created the original TT – is firmly at the helm.

With long lead times on creating a new car, he could only tweak models under development when he arrived in Korea, but it's clear he has been fully at the helm for the latest Kias.

The new Rio appears to fit the supermini classification better than its forbears, but is actually longer and wider than the previous car – the optical illusion being created by rakish coupé lines and a lower roof.

Maybe Kia should have tried the Seat/Alfa Romeo trick of placing the rear doorhandles in the back door frames in order to suggest that the five-door hatchback was really a coupé, but there is a three-door version on the way after all.

Does it walk the talk? There's no denying that the Rio falls short in terms of driver enjoyment.

The steering feels light – great for the town – but not on the open road, and while it keeps its poise on the bends and has a light gearshift, it doesn't feel as taut as the class leaders.

Then again, refinement is good and our 107bhp 1.4-litre petrol version cruised happily on the motorway in sixth gear.

But as this is currently the most powerful engine option, the way seems to be clear for a bit more welly – hopefully, including a glamorous hot hatch version of the forthcoming three-door.

Other engines for now are an 83bhp 1.25-litre petrol – which is surely a bit too asthmatic – and two diesels: a 74bhp 1.1-litre diesel capable of averaging 70-plus mpg and an 88bhp 1.4-litre diesel, both marketed with Kia's green Ecodynamics package. Impressive though the 1.1 engine's economy and road tax exempt 99gm/km CO_2 emissions are, its glacial acceleration to 60mph in 15.5 seconds must deflect many buyers towards the 1.4.

But there's not much to deliberate on about living on with the car: the Rio's dashboard is thoughtfully arranged and I was impressed at the attention given to our plug-in gadgets – there are two 12v, plus aux and USB sockets.

The cabin is spacious – particularly for those in the back – and the air of quality is impressive, with only a couple of areas where a bit more cash might have been spent, though we need to remember that prices start at just £10,595 and there is a generous spec.

Not that many people are buying Kias on price now – cars like this new Rio deserve to sell on their looks.

KIA RIO 2 1.4 PETROL: PRICE £13,095

LOOKING THE PART: Kia's new Rio can't match the appeal of sector leaders such as Ford's Fiesta or the VW Polo, but this stylish car is sensibly priced and also boasts the Korean carmaker's unique seven-year/100,000-mile warranty

FACT FILE

Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Reliabilty:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Road tax:	£95 (zero year one)
Best rival:	VW Golf

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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS

Lexus sales soar by a third

SALES of the all-new Lexus CT200h have enabled the Japanese premium marque to celebrate growing its volume by a third in 2011.

The hybrid is a unique in its sector and accounted for more than half of 8,269 Lexus registrations last year and, crucially for the brand's battle with German arch-rivals, two-thirds were conquest sales.

US 'evoquing' common voice

IT'S been said that Britain and America are two nations divided by a common language, so it's probably no surprise the Range Rover Evoque SUV has been named 2012 North American Truck Of The Year.

Strange terminology aside, the Detroit Motor Show's award follows plenty of UK awards, and shows the transatlantic neighbours in common voice.

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CITROËN has introduced a stylish new special edition into its award-winning C3 Picasso MPV range – the Code (£15,695).

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2003 (53) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 5door hatchback, metallic grey, 2 lady owners, from new with service history, nice example with a 1198cc petrol engine and manual transmission **£2,395**

2001 (Y) LANDROVER FREELANDER ES with all usual extras, well serviced vehicle with leather interior, 1798cc petrol engine with manual transmission **£2,195**

2003 (53) FORD STREETKA CONVERTIBLE 'LUXURY' metallic blue with all usual extras including leather interior, 1598cc petrol engine with manual transmission **£1,995**

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2001 (Y) CITROEN XSARA LX metallic blue, 5 door hatchback with service history and all usual extras, nice example with a 1597cc petrol engine with manual transmission **£995**

2000 (X) FIAT ULYSSE EL 5 door MPV 7 seater, metallic blue with all usual extras, multi purpose family vehicle with a 1997cc petrol engine with manual transmission **£995**

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1999 (T) MGF CONVERTIBLE metallic blue, with all usual extras, part exchange to clear, with a 1597cc petrol engine with manual transmission **£895**

1998 (S) BMW 318Ti 3 door hatchback, metallic grey with all usual extras, 2 lady owners from new, part exchange to clear, 1895cc petrol engine with manual transmission **£895**

1999 (V) PEUGEOT 306 LX 5door estate car, metallic blue, with all the usual extras, part exchange to clear with a 1597cc petrol engine with automatic transmission **£795**

1999 (V) DAEWOO MATIZ SE PLUS 5 door hatchback, metallic orange with all usual extras, nice low mileage example with a 796cc petrol engine with manual transmission **£795**

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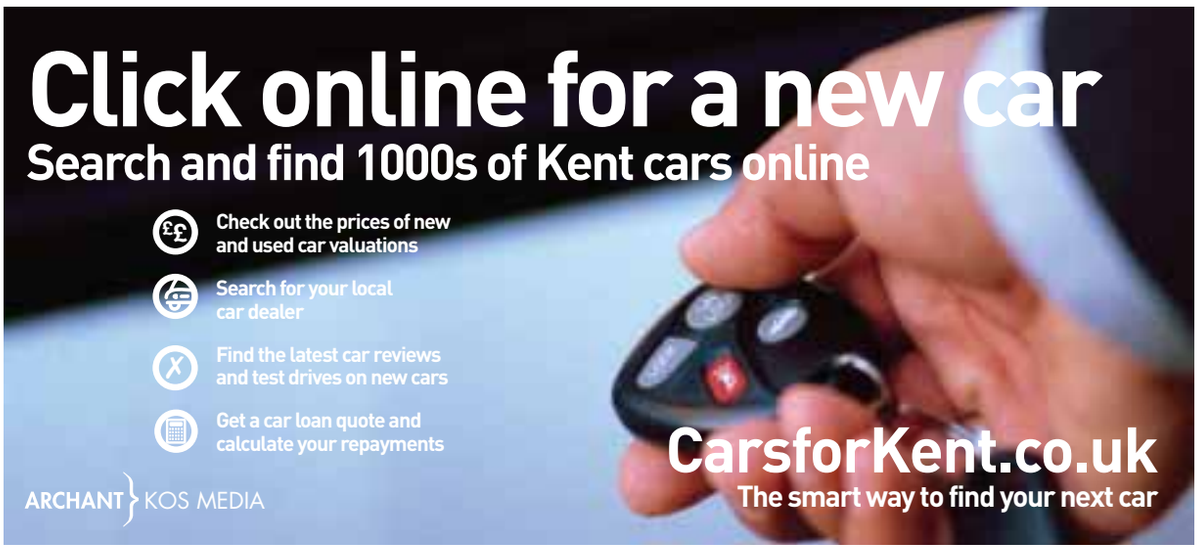

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Kent's Olympic Countdown 27.07.2012

Clock ticking on Kent's plans to join 2012 party

By David Pritchard
david.pritchard@archant.co.uk

THE countdown to the London Olympics and Paralympics is into the final straight and sport is set to play a high profile role across Kent over the next nine months.

It is less than 200 days until the opening ceremony in London and expectation will steadily grow between now and July.

Preparations in the county have been taking place for several years. Agreements have been signed for teams from nine different countries to train in Kent before the Games, with more deals expected to be finalised this spring.

Kent will also stage some of the glory, with Brands Hatch hosting the Paralympic road cycling in September. The party will begin in earnest when the Olympic torch relay will spend four days touring the county in July.

Critics across the country have focused on the cost of staging the Games and aspects such as ticketing have also come under fire, but Chris Hespe, head of sport, leisure and the Olympics at Kent County Council, believes the sceptics are being won over.

"Frankly I think there's going to be quite a frenzy of excitement as we approach 2012," he said.

"The community of Kent will get very excited indeed. We've been excited since 2005 when we heard the news of the successful bid, but it's within touching distance now.

"It's more than that because it's coming into Kent with the torch relay with us for four days and we've got the Paralympic road cycling at Brands Hatch.

"This is a huge opportunity, we're never going to get the Olympics again in my lifetime and we can't afford to miss out. It's so important for sport."

In addition to the training camp agreements, Kent's sporting facilities have enjoyed many informal arrangements over the past 12 months which has seen world class athletes using the venues.

Last week, the Pegasus Gymnastics Club, near Maidstone, hosted Argentina's Valeria Pereyra, while trampolining teams from the United States, Canada, Portugal and Great Britain were at Jumpers Rebound Centre in Gillingham this week.

Martin Laws, managing director at the centre, said "We have worked hard to attract these teams and our efforts are now paying off.

"It is vital to bring the countries base camps to the area if we are to maximise the benefits of London 2012.

"We are now seeing a snowballing effect as other countries try to follow the leaders."

Other events organised during the year include an expanded Kent School Games, a youth athletics international featuring the home nations at Ashford in July and the British Transplant Games.

Kent 2012 Year of Sport

PRE-GAMES TRAINING CAMPS IN KENT

AUSTRALIA	Athletics (Tonbridge School)
BARBADOS	Paralympic squad (Medway Park)
BELARUS	Judo (Tonbridge Judo Club)
NEPAL	Paralympic squad (Venue TBC)
NEPAL	Olympic squad (Venue TBC)
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Paralympic squad (Sevenoaks School)
PORTUGAL	Gymnastics & trampolining (Jumpers, Medway Park)
SENEGAL	Olympic squad (TBC, Medway)
SLOVENIA	Gymnastics (Pegasus, Maidstone)
UKRAINE	Judo (Tonbridge Judo Club)

2012 CALENDAR: MAJOR SPORTING DATES

Feb/Mar Start of Kent School Games finals

May Cyclopark officially opens

Jun/July Olympic pre-Games training camps

July
17-20 Kent hosts the Olympic torch relay
20-22 Under-17 home nations athletics at Julie Rose Stadium
27 Olympic opening ceremony

Aug
Paralympic pre-Games training camps, Kent's Paralympic Roadshow
23-26 British Transplant Games, Medway
29 Paralympic opening ceremony

Sept 3-8 Paralympic road cycling at Brands Hatch

EXAMPLE: Ashford's Jamie Staff won a gold medal at Beijing in 2008 Picture: TEAM SKY

Bosworth not complacent of challenge to reach Games

AMONG the county's athletes hoping to have the honour of competing in front of a home crowd at this summer's Olympics is Tom Bosworth.

The race walker, who turns 22 next week, flew out to a training camp in Spain on Thursday as part of the squad's preparations.

Bosworth broke the national five kilometre walk record at the UK Championships last July and is now focused on shaving almost three minutes off his personal best over 20k to qualify for London.

Despite being optimistic of achieving the time after enjoying the most trouble-free winter training of his career, the Tonbridge athlete remains cautious.

He said: "There's no way I'm an Olympian yet, because there is quite a big possibility that I won't go.

"Anything can happen in sport and so far I've had a brilliant winter and I hopefully will have a very strong spring. I've achieved what I've done in the past off the back of injuries, so I don't see why I can't get an Olympic qualifying time after a perfect block of training."

Bosworth's first opportunity to reach the Olympic standard will be in Switzerland in March.

Cyclopark to provide concrete Olympic legacy for the county

ARGUABLY the longest lasting impact on the county from the Games is nestled next to the A2 at Gravesend.

Spread across 43 acres, Cyclopark is expected to attract 100,000 cyclists a year once it officially opens in May. Funding for the £8 million project has come from a variety of sources but is unlikely to have taken place without a successful Olympic bid.

The site includes a BMX track, mountain bike trails, a road cycling circuit and skate park. Construction on the pavilion continues but many of the cycling routes are complete. Folkestone's Daniel Pullen, a member of the Olympic BMX development squad, has tested the track.

PROJECT: Cyclopark

The 16-year-old, who is a hopeful for the 2016 Olympics, said: "It's a brilliant facility, the amount of money that was thrown into it was worth it because all the cycling facilities are up north. Cyclopark helps the south region out. It's a great atmosphere down there, everyone's enjoying using it."

Brown believes GB side are on course for Paralympic glory

ONE of Kent's best hopes for a medal this summer lies with Britain's wheelchair rugby captain Steve Brown.

The 30-year-old helped an injury depleted side to silver at the European Championships last October.

As hosts the team have a guaranteed place at the London Paralympics and with a full strength squad will be one of the favourites to finish on the podium in September.

Sittingbourne's Brown is counting down the days until the tournament begins and is delighted with the preparation so far.

He said: "It should go well, there's no reason it shouldn't - the coach knows what he's doing and the team knows what's expected from them.

"We've worked very hard through Christmas to make sure our fitness is up and we're coming into this year fully fit.

"The adrenalin is within everybody. We're looking to make sure it's the best it can be and the attention to detail is second to none.

"I'm very privileged to be captain of that team going into 2012."

CRICKET

Kent talent delighted at chance to learn from childhood hero

Picture: ADY KERRY

RISING STARS: Kent teenagers Daniel Bell-Drummond (left) and Adam Ball flew out to Bangladesh with England Under-19s this week

By David Pritchard
david.pritchard@archant.co.uk

YOUTH development was high on Jimmy Adams' priorities when he took over as Kent head coach last week, but the former West Indies captain unwittingly began the process of inspiring one of his players a decade ago.

During a visit to Catford Wanderers one of the star-struck youngsters to shake the Jamaican's hand was Daniel Bell-Drummond. The seven-year-old went on to join Kent the same year and after progressing through the youth ranks he will be in the first-team squad which Adams will coach this summer.

Now 18, the talented opener, whose parents were born on the same Caribbean island as Adams, is thrilled by the prospect of playing for one of his heroes.

"It was brilliant to have him there [at Catford], everyone looked up to him because of what he's achieved with the West Indies so it's brilliant to have a coach like that and to have a chance to work under him at Kent," he said.

"He was one of my idols growing up. I'll remind him about when I met him, but I'm not sure he'll remember me."

An injury to skipper Rob Key allowed Bell-Drummond an opportunity to gain first-team experience at the end of last summer. With Joe Denly's departure he is likely to have more chances to develop this season, but for the moment his focus is on international cricket.

The teenager flew off to Bangladesh with England Under-19s on Thursday ahead of a seven game series, which starts next week. He spent much of last month in a training camp in South Africa which included nets against the senior England attack.

He said: "I do pinch myself sometimes, I've always dreamt of this sort of stuff and hopefully I can play for the senior team some day.

"Even though it was my goal you still think sometimes it's amazing being able to represent your country."

The team, as during last summer's series against South Africa, will be led by Adam Ball. Like Bell-Drummond, the 18-year-old signed a lengthy contract extension last month after getting a chance to impress on first-team duty for Kent.

The left-arm seamer had virtually no experience of captaincy before taking on the role with England, but has relished the responsibility.

He said: "For my game I think being captain has and will help my game massively on the tactical side. Just being able to think on my feet when I'm out there under pressure.

"I'll learn a lot and bring it into my performances for Kent."

FOOTBALL

Jury out over restructuring plan which threatens Kent League split

THERE was a distinctly guarded response to the Football Association's latest review of the national league system football this week from Kent League chair Denise Richmond.

At present there are six divisions at Step Four, such as the Ryman Division One South, from which a maximum of 12 teams can be relegated to Step Five - in this area to the Kent League.

The FA are looking to reduce the number of Step Five leagues from the existing 14, down to 12 feeder leagues each of 22 teams. Kent League clubs will attend a meeting at Thurrock on Sunday to see the proposals, but Richmond believes tinkering with the format is risky.

"I think looking at it objectively the only real argument for reducing it from 14 to 12 leagues is because there are only 12 promotion places available and what happens if 14 clubs are eligible to be promoted?" she said. "But since the reorganisation there have never been 14 clubs able to be promoted."

Richmond argues that if a promotion log-jam does occur there are alternatives.

She said: "There is provision for play-offs and Step Four Leagues could always operate with 23 clubs for a season. Inevitably clubs are going to go bust. Croydon Athletic could be about to drop out of the Ryman League and I understand Kettering are on the brink, so it would only be for one season."

Richmond believes the current system is not broken and does not need fixing, but says there are positives as well as negatives.

She said. "Our concern more than anything is of the clubs being split up, with south London clubs being pushed over the Thames and the coastal clubs if you like having to travel to Sussex."

In theory at least that could mean Deal Town having to make a 200-mile round-trip to play Peacehaven of the Sussex League.

"Our clubs don't mind travelling to FA Vase games and some are for it because they want more games and it gives them more chance to make revenue," Richmond said.

"Over half our clubs have applied for promotion but others have small crowds and are worried about increased travelling costs."

Picture: DAVID MULLANEY

RISK: The Kent League could be divided

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL FOCUS WITH FRED ATKINS

The downside of all-seater stadia

"DURING the peak of its powers in the mid-1980s, Spitting Image carried a sketch showing Norman Tebbit working in the ticket office of a theatre.

A customer approached him and asked if he had any restrictive views.

"Yes, hanging's too good for them," he replied. "Bring back National Service for the unemployed."

Spitting Image's modus operandi was to take a subject's most extreme characteristics and twist them out of all recognition, to produce a grotesque caricature.

Tebbit was thus portrayed as a donkey-jacketed thug, which, although inaccurate, had a certain kind of karma to it given the way his government demonised football fans in the 1980s.

Anyone who thinks there weren't serious issues with fan behaviour during the era is deluded, but the overwhelming majority of fans then, as now, were law-abiding citizens.

The strategy of treating supporters as if they were rats who needed to be caged arguably contributed to the Hillsborough disaster, but instead fans were blamed when Kelvin McKenzie ran a front page editorial in the Sun libelling Liverpool fans as corpse robbers and worse.

Clearly something needed to be done to prevent a repeat, but the Taylor Report's decree that professional football should have all-seater stadia had its downsides.

Chief among them was the fact that you could no longer choose who you wanted to stand or sit with.

An acquaintance took a child to the Gillingham v Stoke cup tie last Saturday, but left before the end because of the language used by "fans" nearby.

Under Priestfield's regulations, the miscreants could have been ejected, but the innocent fan is placed in an invidious situation. Stewards can't take action unless they're informed and the fan can't always do this without exposing themselves to even more intimidation.

Some clubs operate a text hotline to report anti-social behaviour but even this is an exercise in stable-door shutting if you're unlucky enough to be in a crowd when one idiot decides to let rip.

The problem was compounded because the Stoke game was a sell-out, making it impossible to move to alternative seating.

It's fair to say that this isn't likely to be a problem at any of Kent's non-league grounds any time soon. Consenting adults do exchange industrial strength language from time-to-time and occasionally it's audible where it shouldn't be.

The restrictive view, in both senses of the phrase, remains one of the banes of the modern game and if you look hard enough, you can still find people who make "Normo Tebbs" look like the Dalai Lama.

The advantage of the non-league game is if you are unlucky to get within earshot of someone swearing like a fishwife, you can walk away."

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 14.4 (19.6)-67.3 (4.2), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3)-91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7)-80.7 (3.5). CO_2 emissions: 324-94g/km.

*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Model shown is New Astra SRi 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations between 01/01/12 and 31/01/12. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper. 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. Savings shown are against list price at time of publication, for details refer to Vauxhall's current price guide. Price points are available on retailer stock vehicles only. ^Customer deposit shown after deduction of Vauxhall contribution.